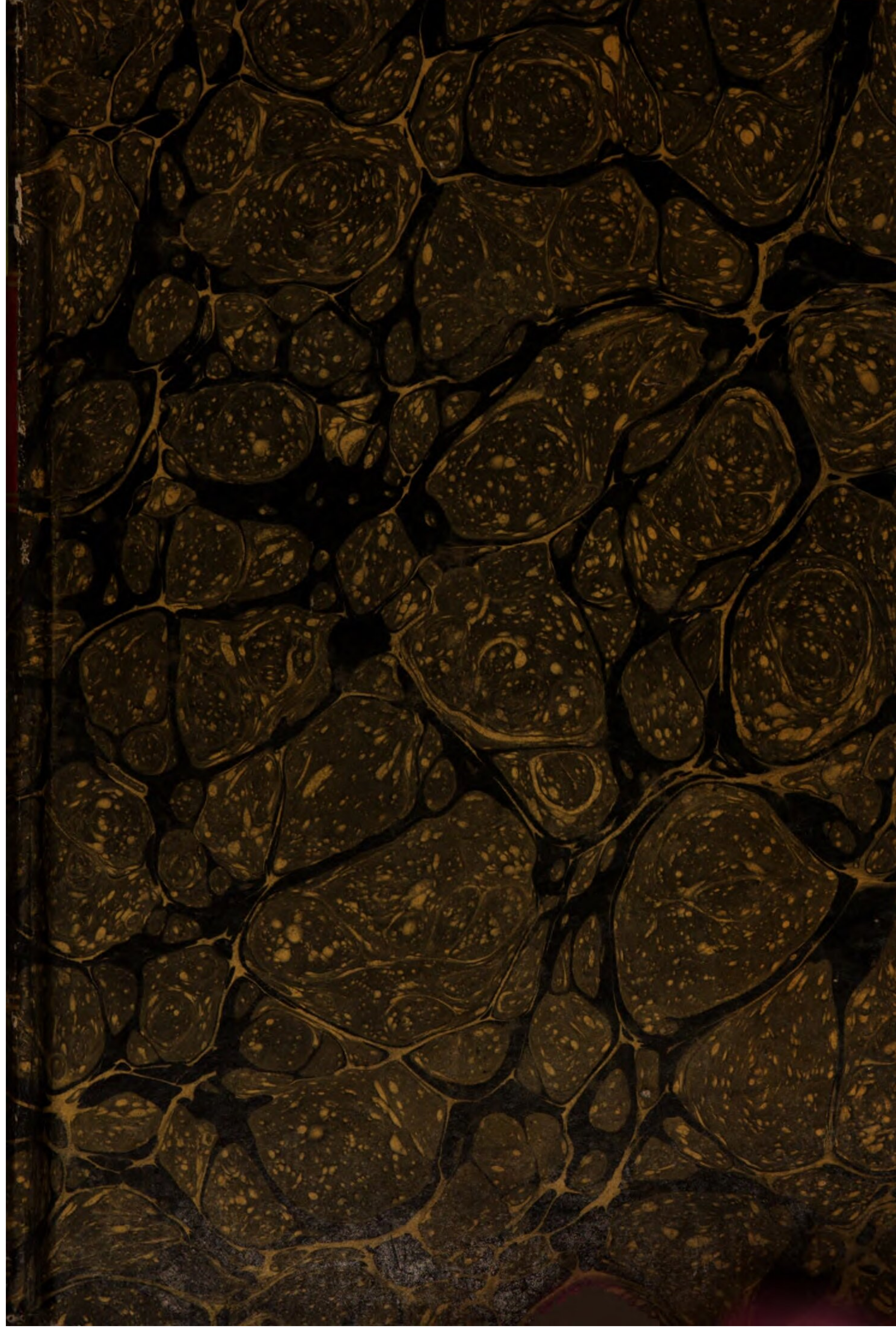






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# ENGLAND

and

## WALES.



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# ENGLAND DELINEATED;

OR, A

GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION

OF EVERY COUNTY IN

ENGLAND AND WALES:

WITH A CONCISE ACCOUNT OF

ITS MOST IMPORTANT PRODUCTS,

NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL.

FOR THE USE OF YOUNG PERSONS.

*With Outline Maps of all the Counties.*

---

FOURTH EDITION,

CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED.

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Such noble warlike steeds, such herds of kine,  
So flock, so vast; such spacious flocks of sheep,  
What other paradise adorn but thine,  
Britannia? - - - - -  
- - - - - To these thy naval streams,  
Thy frequent towns superb of busy trade,  
And ports magnific add, and stately ships  
Innumerable.

DYER'S FLEECE.

---

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD,  
BY T. BENSLEY, BOLT COURT, FLEET STREET.

1800.



ENGLAND DELINEATED

GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION

OF EVERY COUNTY IN

ENGLAND AND WALES

WITH A COMPLETE ACCOUNT OF

THE MOST IMPORTANT PRODUCTS

NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL

FOR THE USE OF YOUNG PERSONS

W. A. CHURCHMAN, Author of the Counties

OF THE COUNTY OF

CHESHIRE, &c.

Bayerische  
Staatsbibliothek  
München

The author of the Counties of England and Wales, and the Counties of the Kingdom of Ireland, has been assisted by the following gentlemen, who have been employed by him in the collection of the materials for this work:—

LONDON

PRINTED BY J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD, 1800.



## P R E F A C E.

IT is the principal object of this work to make my young countrymen better acquainted than they are usually found to be with their native land. The utility of such a design will not be questioned. The reasons which induced me to think the present attempt particularly seasonable, and the manner in which I have endeavoured to fulfil my purpose, shall be briefly displayed.

Tours through England, and accounts of English Geography, in various forms, are publications sufficiently common and numerous; and new editions, with alledged improvements, are successively appearing as they are called for; but it will be no breach of critical candour to assert, that they are, for the most part, works of a very low order in literature, abounding with gross faults both of plan and execution. Tedious de-



scriptions of objects, either absolutely trivial in themselves, or interesting only to readers of a particular turn; relations become totally erroneous through length of time, and transmitted, unchanged, from one successive compilation to another; weak and illiberal partialities, local and national, with inelegancies and vulgarisms of every kind;—these are defects from which none of them that I have seen can be called tolerably free; and which certainly render them little proper to be put into the hands of youth, and indeed much lessen their value to readers of all ages. Yet, as books of reference, some of them will continue to be useful, till a work shall be executed which I consider as one of the greatest of literary *desiderata*—an accurate and comprehensive account of the present state of these kingdoms, under the several heads of natural and political history, agriculture, and commerce. The adequate execution of such a design would demand the long-continued labours, not of one man only,



only, but of several persons associated, who should be perfectly qualified for the different departments; and it can never be executed without a liberal public encouragement.

The present performance scarcely pretends to be an imperfect outline of such a plan. The leading idea pursued in it was, to sketch out such a general view of each county, with respect to its geography, products natural and artificial, commerce, towns, and other principal objects, as might impress upon the mind a distinct notion of its discriminating character and relative consequence. In doing this, the greatest difficulty, next to that of collecting proper materials, was to keep a due medium between the meagre uninteresting manner of a catalogue, and such a minuteness of detail as would have amplified the work beyond its proposed limits, and would, if not equally diffused through the several parts, have rendered the whole disproportionate. How far this point has been attained, the reader must determine;



but few can form an adequate judgment of the difficulty of such a task, without actual experience in attempting it.

The *geographical descriptions* were purposely made somewhat diffuse, that they might serve as exercises in that very useful branch of study; and therefore ought to be read with a good map in hand.

The state of *cultivation, trade, and manufactures*, in this kingdom, has undergone so many changes, even within a short period, that it was not possible to derive from books alone such information as might be depended upon. Therefore, besides consulting some of the most modern tours through particular districts, and histories of particular towns and counties, I thought it necessary to apply for written information to persons residing in various parts of the country; and, in consequence, I have been favoured with a number of communications, especially relative to the several branches of commerce and manufacture,



nufacture, from the most respectable authorities, which, I flatter myself, have enabled me to give more authentic, though concise, accounts of a variety of important objects, than have hitherto appeared in print. I cannot, however, but lament that my opportunities for obtaining this best kind of information have not been every where alike.

*Antiquities* I have almost entirely passed over. The necessary details on this subject could not possibly be brought within the prescribed limits of this work; and the publications already extant have given much more copious and genuine information on this head than on the present circumstances of things.

For reasons somewhat similar, I have scarcely given any notices concerning *family history, noblemen's and gentlemen's seats, pleasure grounds, prospects, and the like.*

Wherever a proper occasion offered, I have been desirous of introducing *historical*



*matter* of importance, as connected with some particular place; in order that, by such an association, the events might be forcibly impressed upon the memory of a young reader. I have, however, taken such facts rather from the later than the earlier periods of our history, as being better authenticated, and of greater consequence to us at present.

It remains for me to return my best thanks to those correspondents who have favoured me with assistance in collecting materials for this work. Were I to name them all, the list might appear rather a display of ostentation than of gratitude; nor can I suppose that they would all choose to appear in public as contributors to so humble a performance. I shall therefore request of them to accept my general acknowledgments. Two names of benefactors I must, however, beg leave to particularize—One is that of ROBERT BRANSBY COOPER, Esq. residing at Dursley, to whose elegant pen I am indebted for the account, almost entirely as it is printed, of  
the



the county of Gloucester—the other is that of THOMAS PENNANT, Esq. a gentleman, who, by his assiduous labours, has contributed more than any other person, since the great *Ray*, to elucidate the zoological part of the natural history of this country; and has, besides, in his various tours, made us acquainted with a great number of curious and interesting particulars of the ancient and modern state of a large part of the kingdom; and, while he has conveyed useful information to his readers, has, at the same time, laboured to eradicate all mean and ungenerous prejudices and partialities. I have not only borrowed freely from his printed works, but have obtained from his friendship the liberal use of several papers which he had collected respecting the state of the southern coast of this island.

JOHN AIKIN.

Great Yarmouth,  
Sept. 1, 1788.



## ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE

## FOURTH EDITION.

THE printed reports of that most useful institution the *Board of Agriculture*, have afforded the author an opportunity of correcting and enlarging his description of the general appearance, soil, and products, of most of the counties, of which, on this republication, he thought he could not, without injustice to his work, refuse to avail himself.

J. A.

London,  
Sept. 20, 1799.



## INTRODUCTION.

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### ENGLAND IN GENERAL.

ENGLAND, including *Wales*, is the largest and most southern part of the island of *Great Britain*, which is itself the principal of the European islands. It is every where surrounded by the sea, except on that part where it joins with a narrow neck to Scotland. Its general figure is triangular, with one point to the north, another to the east, and another to the west. Of its three sides, the western is the longest and most irregular, being broken and intersected by various points of land, and arms of the sea. If a straight line be drawn from Berwick upon Tweed to the Land's-end in Cornwall, it will give, for the western side, four



four hundred and twenty-five statute miles. The same, drawn from Berwick to the South Foreland in Kent, will give, for the eastern side, three hundred and forty-five miles: and the triangle completed, by a line from the South Foreland to the Land's-end, will have a southern side of three hundred and forty miles. But these measurements would amount to a great deal more if we were to follow all the windings of the sea-coast.

The face of the country in England affords all that beautiful variety which can be found in the most extensive tracts of the globe. In some parts, verdant plains extend far as the eye can reach, watered by copious streams, and covered with innumerable cattle. In others, the pleasing vicissitudes of gently-rising hills and bending vales, fertile in corn, waving with wood, and interspersed with meadows, offer the most delightful landscapes of rural opulence and beauty. Some tracts abound  
with



with prospects of the more romantic kind; lofty mountains, craggy rocks, deep narrow dells, and tumbling torrents: nor are there wanting, as a contrast to so many agreeable scenes, the gloomy features of black barren moors and wide uncultivated heaths. On the whole, however, few countries have a smaller proportion of land absolutely sterile and incapable of culture.

The richest parts of the country are, in general, the midland and southern. Towards the north it partakes of the barrenness of the neighbouring Scotland. The eastern coast is in many parts sandy and marshy. To the west, the whole country of Wales is a mountainous tract, intermixed indeed with vales of great fertility. Another range of rude and elevated land, sometimes rising into lofty mountains, extends from the borders of Scotland to the very heart of England, running perpendicularly from north to south, and forming a natural division between the eastern and western



western sides of the kingdom, during its course. The county of Cornwall, too, which, like a great promontory, juts into the Atlantic Ocean, is a rough and hilly tract; and a similar character prevails in parts of the adjacent counties. These mountainous regions, however, contribute greatly to the wealth and advantage of the whole, by the mineral treasures with which they are amply furnished.

The rivers of England are numerous; but the extent of the country will not admit of such a length of course as would allow them to vie in greatness with the rivers of the continent. Those of the northern parts, arising from the middle ridge of hills, have but a short run each way to the sea. In the midland districts, the *Trent* and *Ouse* find room for a moderate length of course. The *Severn*, in the west, springing near the sea, and taking a large semicircular sweep to reach the same sea again, flows over a space which entitles it to rank at least as  
the



the second river of England. The *Thames*, taking its rise not far from the western side, and running across to the eastern sea, gains a greater distance from its source to its mouth than any of the rest.

The lakes of England are few and inconsiderable for extent. The principal of them lie in the north-western counties.

Various bays, creeks, and inlets of the sea are formed all round the coast. On the eastern side, the most considerable are, the *Humber*, an arm of the sea into which many rivers pour their streams. Then the *Wash*, a broad but much shallower inlet, the sands of which are for the most part bare at low water. The mouth of the *Thames* next opens into a sort of funnel, produced by the retiring coast of Essex on the one hand, and Kent on the other. Then succeed the *Straits of Dover*, where this island so nearly approaches the continent. The *Isle of Wight*, the harbour of *Portsmouth*, and the creek



creek running up to *Southampton*, break the regularity of the southern coast; which afterwards makes several bays and semicircular sweeps in its progress to the *Land's-end*. On turning to the western side, the most remarkable of all the inlets, the spacious *St. George's*, or *Bristol channel*, appears, which, with the wide mouth of the *Severn*, cuts deeply into the broadest part of the island. The opposite *Welsh* coast is broken by various bays and indentations; and beyond the next turn of the land succeeds the large and deep bay of *Cardigan*. Then the *Isle of Anglesea* repels the waters of the Irish sea, and gives a new direction to the coast, which, running inwards, forms a kind of vast bay with the *Lancashire* and *Cumberland* coasts, into which several broad and shallow mouths of rivers enter, and which is protected to the seaward by the *Isle of Man*. *Solway frith* terminates the English coast, and forms a natural boundary on part of the Scotch border, which the *Cheviot-hills* and the *Tweed* nearly complete.

With



With respect to *climate*, England is situated in the northern part of the temperate zone, so that it enjoys but a scanty share of the genial influence of the sun. Its atmosphere is inclined to chilness and moisture, subject to frequent and sudden changes; and is more favourable to the growth, than to the ripening, of the products of the earth. No country is cloathed with a more beautiful and lasting verdure; but the harvests, especially in the northern parts, frequently suffer from unseasonable rains; and the fruits often fall short of their perfect maturity. The rigours of winter, however, as well as the parching heats of summer, are felt here in a much less degree than in parallel climates on the continent; a circumstance common to all islands. While the sea-ports in Holland and Germany are every winter locked up with ice, those of England, and even of Scotland, are never known to suffer this inconvenience. The western side of the kingdom, receiving first the great clouds from the Atlantic Ocean, which are  
B afterwards



afterwards intercepted in their passage by the middle ridge of hills, is considerably more exposed to rain than the eastern; but the latter is more frequently involved in fogs and mists. The whole country, some particular spots excepted, is sufficiently healthy; and the natural longevity of its inhabitants is equal to that of almost any region.

All the most valuable productions, both animal and vegetable, of this country, have been imported from the continent, and have been kept up and improved by constant attention. Originally, this great island seems to have been, like the wilds of America, almost entirely over-run with wood, and peopled only by the inhabitants of the forest. Here formerly roamed the bear, the wolf, and the wild boar, now totally extirpated. Large herds of stags ranged through the woods, roebucks bounded over the hills, and wild bulls grazed in the marshy pastures. By degrees, the woods were destroyed,



stroyed, in order to make way for cultivation; the marshes were drained; and the wild animals, invaded in their retreats, gradually disappeared, and their places were supplied by the domestic kinds. England now possesses no other wild quadrupeds than some of the smaller kinds; such as the fox, the wild cat, the badger, the martin, and others of the weasel kind; the otter, the hedgehog, the hare and rabbit; the squirrel, dormouse, mole, and several species of the rat and mouse. On the other hand, every kind of domestic animal, imported from abroad, has here been reared to the greatest degree of perfection. The horse has been trained up for all the various purposes of strength and swiftness, so as to excel in those qualities the same animal in every other country. The horned cattle have been brought to the largest size and greatest justness of shape. The different races of sheep in England are variously distinguished, either for uncommon size, goodness of flesh, and plenty or fineness of wool. The deer



of our parks, which are originally a foreign breed, are superior in beauty of skin and delicacy of flesh to those of most countries. Even the several kinds of dogs have been trained to degrees of courage, strength, and sagacity, rarely to be met with elsewhere.

The improvement in the vegetable products of this island is not less striking than in the animal. Nuts, acorns, crabs, and a few wild berries, were almost all the variety of vegetable food which our woods could boast. To foreign countries, and to the efforts of culture, we are indebted for our bread, the roots and greens of our tables, and all our garden fruits. The barley and hops for our malt liquors, and the apples for our cyder, are equally the gifts of other lands. The meanest labourer now is fed with more wholesome and delicate aliments than the petty kings of the country could obtain in its savage and uncultivated state.



The rivers and seas of England are stocked with a great variety of fish, which yield a plentiful article of provision. The river fish, indeed, from the populousness of the country, and the number of fishers, are in many parts much diminished. But the sea is an inexhaustible source; and every exertion of industry, to procure food from thence, is amply repaid. The fisheries are at present a great object of attention; and the whole seacoast is enlivened by numerous inhabitants, who gain their chief subsistence from the deep.

Such, in general, is the country which we inhabit; sufficiently favoured by nature, yet greatly indebted also to industry; for, if this powerful spring were to slacken, the wild wood, the tangled thicket, and the pathless morass, would again cover the land, and it would become a fit residence only for the savage beasts, and the hunter not less savage.



We now proceed to the particular consideration of those principal divisions into which civil policy has distributed the kingdom. These are the *counties* or *shires*; of which England, properly so called, contains forty, and Wales twelve. The order in which these are given is a matter of no great consequence; but as one must be adopted in preference to others, I have chosen a geographical arrangement, as best suited to the intention of the work, and the manner in which the subjects are treated.



THE  
COUNTIES  
OF  
ENGLAND AND WALES  
ARRANGED.

Six Northern ;

{ Northumberland,  
Cumberland,  
Durham,  
Yorkshire,  
Westmoreland,  
Lancashire.

Four bordering  
on Wales ;

{ Cheshire,  
Shropshire,  
Herefordshire,  
Monmouthshire.



**Twelve Mid-  
land;**

Nottinghamshire,  
Derbyshire,  
Staffordshire,  
Leicestershire,  
Rutlandshire,  
Northamptonshire,  
Warwickshire,  
Worcestershire,  
Gloucestershire,  
Oxfordshire,  
Buckinghamshire,  
Bedfordshire.

**Eight Eastern;**

Lincolnshire,  
Huntingdonshire,  
Cambridgeshire,  
Norfolk,  
Suffolk,  
Essex,  
Hertfordshire,  
Middlesex.

**Three**



Three South-  
eastern;

{ Surry,  
Kent,  
Suffex.

Four Southern;

{ Berkshire,  
Wiltshire,  
Hampshire,  
Dorsetshire.

Three South-  
western;

{ Somersetshire,  
Devonshire,  
Cornwall.

Six North-  
Wales;

{ Flintshire,  
Denbighshire,  
Caernarvonshire,  
Anglesey,  
Merionethshire,  
Montgomeryshire.

Six



Six South-  
Wales ;

{ Radnorshire,  
Cardiganshire,  
Pembrokeshire,  
Caermarthenhire,  
Brecknockshire,  
Glamorganshire.

ENGLAND



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# NORTHUMBERLAND.





## ENGLAND DELINEATED.

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### NORTHUMBERLAND.

**T**HIS is the most northerly county in England, and, by its termination in a sharp point, forms a regular angle for the boundary of the kingdom on this side. The county is of a triangular figure, its eastern side leaning on the ocean; its western joining to Scotland and Cumberland; and its southern bordering with a more irregular line on Cumberland and Durham. Its natural boundaries are in most parts mountains or rivers. For size it is among the largest, its greatest length being near seventy miles, and its breadth, at the southern extremity, above forty.

The face of the country in this large tract is various, but on the whole inclining to nakedness and sterility. The mountainous districts



tracts absolutely unfit for tillage comprise more than a third of the land. The most fertile tracts are on the eastern side, in the vales through which the rivers run in their course to the sea. Many of these are very fruitful in corn and pasture. The vale of *Cocquet* is particularly noted for its fertility, and produces turnips and clover in perfection. Woods are chiefly confined to the banks of rivers, but new plantations are rising in various parts of the county. The south-western angle is an extremely dreary and barren tract, though rendered valuable by its lead mines. To the north of this are some fertile dales around the hilly regions; but the country about *Readsdales* is so boggy as to be almost an impassable desert. The *Cheviot Hills*, near the northern angle, are the most valuable of the mountainous tracts, being in general fine green hills, thrown into a great variety of forms, whose sloping verdant sides enclose many narrow deep glens. No mineral is found in them except granite or whinstone, of which the mountains are chiefly



chiefly composed. These hills feed abundance of sheep of a peculiar breed: goats also are kept among them, and they abound in grouse. The state of the poor shepherds is as miserable as that of human creatures can well be; and the country has been greatly depopulated by the practice of throwing many small farms into single ones of vast extent, consisting either of wide sheep-walks, or immense corn fields. Some of the finest cattle in the kingdom are, however, fed in parts of the Scotch border. The central part of the country rises in rocky hills of no great height, but stretching into melancholy wastes.

The principal river of Northumberland is the *Tyne*, formed of a southern branch, coming out of Durham, and a northern one from the hills on the border: these, uniting a little above Hexham, form a large river, which, flowing on to Newcastle, empties itself into the sea at Tinmouth. A great quantity of water comes down these streams,  
which



which frequently occasions terrible inundations.

The centre of the country is crossed by the river *Cocquet*, which joins the sea at Warkworth, celebrated for its ancient castle and hermitage.

The *Tweed*, after dividing Northumberland from Scotland for a considerable space, and receiving the *Till*, which waters the northern angle of the county, at last turns short across the extreme point to Berwick, and there mixes with the sea. We shall hence begin to trace the coast.

The town of *Berwick upon Tweed* was once a very strong fortress, and of the greatest importance when England and Scotland were two hostile nations, to each of which it alternately belonged, or was considered as a district separate from both countries. It has now happily lost its consequence, though still fortified; and is chiefly remarkable for its great salmon fishery, which furnishes it with a valuable object of exportation. It  
also



also exports corn, wool, and a prodigious number of eggs, which are sent to London for the use of the sugar-refiners. It has a small importation of timber from Norway and the Baltic.

Southwards, near the shore, lies *Holy-island* or *Lindisfarn*, once the see of a bishop, and still distinguished by the ruins of its cathedral. It is inhabited by a few fishermen.

The next object worthy notice is *Bamborough Castle*, situated on a promontory, once of great strength, but now remarkable for the humane purpose to which it is applied in consequence of a bequest of lord Crew, bishop of Durham; namely, the reception and relief of shipwrecked mariners.

Nearly opposite to this lies a group of rocky islets, called the *Farn isles*, the resort of multitudes of sea-fowl in the breeding season, particularly of the Eider duck, from which the softest and lightest down is procured.

Considerably farther to the south, off the  
mouth



mouth of the *Cocquet*, is situated a little island of the same name.

At the mouth of the river flowing down from Morpeth, called *Cammawater*, is a small port from which corn and grindstones are exported.

At *Blyth* is another creek, forming a port, whence are sent coals and salt; and a little southward, near Seaton Delaval, an artificial harbour has been made, called *Hartley-haven*, whence the same commodities, together with glass and copperas, are exported.

The mouth of the Tyne succeeds; the great inlet and outlet of this part of the country. Just within it, on the Northumberland side, is *North Shields*, a very populous but dirty place, inhabited by sailors, carpenters, and other artificers concerned in the shipping business. Vessels of large burthen take in their loadings at this part of the river.

The Tyne flows broad and moderately deep to the large and populous town of *Newcastle*, situated in the centre of the great collieries,



collieries, which have for centuries supplied London, all the eastern, and most of the midland and southern parts of the kingdom, with coals. This traffic has been the source of great opulence to Newcastle; which, besides, exports large quantities of lead, salt, salmon, butter, tallow, and grindstones; and imports wine, and fruit from the south of Europe, and timber, iron, hemp, &c. from the Baltic and Norway. Ships are sent from hence to the Greenland fishery. It likewise possesses manufactories of steel and iron, and of woollen cloth; and in the town and neighbourhood are several glass-houses, and potteries. The streets in the old part of Newcastle are unsightly and narrow, and the buildings greatly crowded together; but some of the newer parts are handsome and commodious. The suburbs are chiefly inhabited by keelmen; a rough and sturdy race, employed in carrying the coals down the river in their keels, or lighters, to the large ships.

At this town terminated the ancient *Picts*

C

or



or *Roman wall*, which stretched across the island to Carlisle, and was intended to keep off the incursions of the fierce northern tribes.

The vale in which the Tyne here flows is very fertile and beautiful. At some distance up it is *Hexham*, a town noted for its manufactory of tanned leather, shoes, and gloves. Near this place, in 1463, was fought a very bloody battle between the parties of York and Lancaster, in which the latter was defeated.

The county town of Northumberland is *Alnwick*, upon the little river *Alne*, north of the Cocquet. It is a place of small consequence, chiefly noted for its princely mansion of the Percies, from ancient times the great feudal lords of this part of the kingdom.

Numerous ruined castles scattered over this county strongly mark the state of mutual dread and hostility, in which the English and Scotch borderers lived before the happy union of the two kingdoms under one head. Many bloody conflicts arose from  
the



the plundering incursions continually made on both sides, in which vast tracts of country were laid desolate with all the circumstances of savage ferocity; and, in the more important expeditions, not a town escaped from occasionally undergoing the ravages of fire and sword. Among the pitched battles fought in this county, none were so considerable as that of *Halidown-hill*, near Berwick, in 1333, in which Edward III. defeated the Scots with great slaughter; and that of *Floddon*, on the banks of the Till, where the Earl of Surry, in 1513, totally routed the Scots, who lost in the conflict their valiant king James IV.



## C U M B E R L A N D.

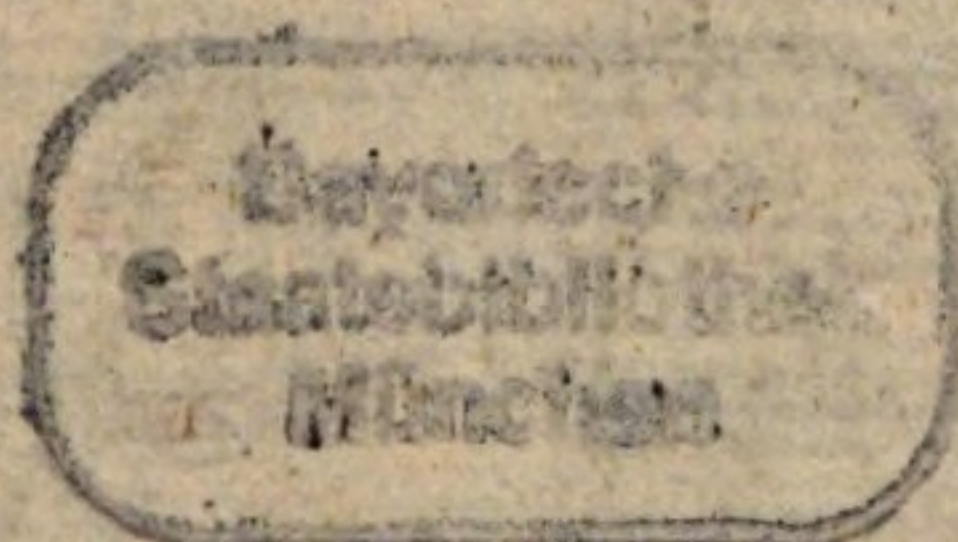
THIS county borders to the north upon Scotland, from which it is separated towards the sea by Solway-frith, and internally, for the most part, by a small brook: on the west, it is bounded by the Irish sea, into which it projects with a convexity like a long hooked beak, the point of which descends to the detached part of Lancashire; from hence its southern concave line runs contiguous, first to the small portion of Lancashire, and then to the whole breadth of Westmoreland: the eastern side is bounded by the counties of Northumberland and Durham. Cumberland is a county of considerable size, stretching, from its southern point to its north-eastern, almost eighty miles, and its greatest breadth being forty miles, though this is only in a small part. It is, however, one of the least populous in the kingdom, its general character being that of a country of bleak mountains, naked moors, and wild wastes,



# CUMBERLAND.









wastes, rich indeed in mineral treasures, but in great part unfit for the cultivator. Of the mountainous districts are two divisions; one, the continuation of that ridge which separates the eastern from the western sides of the north of England, and runs between this county and Durham and Northumberland. These mountains are composed of strata of various kinds of stone, and are rich in coal, limestone, and lead. They are of a high elevation, but afford no striking irregularities of surface. The other mountainous district occupies the south-western part of the county, forming high, steep, and craggy hills of romantic shapes, which are generally a mass of that stone which yields the beautiful blue slate used for covering houses. The only other mineral they afford is that rare and valuable substance, *wad*, or black-lead, the finest kind of which is met with abundantly in *Borrowdale*. Its mines are opened only at certain intervals, and then carefully closed again, lest it should become too common.



The cultivated parts of Cumberland produce some corn, but are chiefly devoted to grazing. The neat cattle of the country are a small breed with long horns, of which numbers are reared, and sold to drovers, who bring them southwards to fatten under the name of Cumberland steers. The dairies produce a good deal of butter for exportation. A breed of small sheep with coarse wool, but excellent flesh, abounds on the hills.

Cumberland, with its neighbour Westmoreland, possesses more lakes than any other part of the kingdom. Of these one of the most beautiful is that of *Derwentwater*, in the *vale of Keswick*, a spot which has lately become a frequent object of curiosity to travellers. To the north of this romantic piece of water soars the lofty mountain *Skiddaw*, one of the most distinguished in England, and the haunt of eagles and other birds of prey.

The principal river of this county is the *Eden*, which, coming from Westmoreland, meets,



meets, on its arrival at the border of Cumberland, with the *Eymot*, flowing out of *Ulleslake*, and then runs northwards, till, on receiving the *Irtbing* from the east, it turns short to Carlisle, below which, after being joined by the *Petterel* and other rivulets, it empties into Solway-frith. This river, as well as others in the county, is plentifully stored with salmon.

The *Derwent*, rising in Borrowdale, flows first through the lake to which it gives name, and then through that of *Bassingthwaite*, whence it turns to Cockermouth, and enters the sea near Workington.

We shall now trace the sea coast, beginning from its southern point.

*Ravenglass* first offers its small port, situated on a creek :

Then, after passing the mouths of two or three rivulets, succeeds *St. Bees head*, a promontory noted for the resort of sea-fowl. Its small town is distinguished by a seminary of learning, much frequented by the youth of the surrounding country.



A little beyond, on a small bay surrounded with naked hills, is *Whitehaven*, a large handsome town, and a port of very considerable commerce, though entirely of modern date. Its great source of traffic is in the collieries situated in its vicinity, which are some of the largest and most remarkable in the kingdom, being wrought to some distance under the bed of the sea. Much of the coal is exported to Ireland and other parts. The town has also a trade to the West Indies.

Somewhat further north is *Workington*, a port from whence a large quantity of coal is exported. This was the landing-place of the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots, when she was driven to take refuge in the dominions of her insidious rival, Elizabeth. In the neighbourhood of Workington is a large iron foundry; and at some distance up the river, at the conflux of the Cocker with the Derwent, is *Cockermouth*, a populous town, thriving by its manufactories of shalloons, worsted stockings, and hats,

Further



Further along the coast lies *Maryport*, a new town raised by the coal trade, at the mouth of the little river Eln.

The coast is at length terminated by the inlet of *Moricambe*, at the entrance of Solway-frith. At *Burgh-upon-sands*, on this latter arm of the sea, died, in 1307, the great and victorious king Edward I. as he was preparing for an expedition against Scotland.

*Carlisle*, the capital of the county, is an ancient city, walled round, and very pleasantly situated above a rich tract of meadows bordering the Eden, and two other rivers which here join it. It has a considerable manufactory of printed linens, checks, and cotton goods, and is also noted for the making of whips and fish-hooks. Its population has doubled within 30 or 40 years past. Its fortifications, insignificant as they are, caused it to be the subject of two trifling sieges in the last civil war which infested this country, the rebellion of 1745.

Beyond Carlisle, near the river Esk, on the



the Scotch border, is *Solway-mofs*, a large black morafs, which, in the year 1771, being fwoln by rains, burft through the fhell of turf which covers it, and spread an inky half-fluid deluge over four hundred acres of cultivated land in the neighbouring valley, which it entirely filled up.

*Penrith*, an inland town on the borders of Westmoreland, is a great thoroughfare, and a market town of fome confequence. A caftle and feveral remains of antiquity are feen in its neighbourhood,

DURHAM.



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VI.  
N O R T H U M B E R L A N D  
Tyne R. *Old* Tyne R.





## D U R H A M.

THIS county has usually been termed *the Bishoprick*, on account of the great powers formerly possessed by the bishop of the diocese, who was said to have all the authority in Durham that the king exercised elsewhere. These privileges, though much abridged, are still considerable, the bishop acting as lord-lieutenant of the county, and having the appointment of the high sheriff. A third part of the county is supposed to be of ecclesiastical tenure.

Durham is of a triangular figure; its eastern or shortest side composed of sea-coast, and the two others running obliquely inland, till they meet in a point on the confines of Cumberland. Northumberland lies to the north of it, separated in part by the rivers Tyne and Derwent: Cumberland, to the west, separated by barren hills and moors; and all its southern boundary is  
formed



formed by the Tees, by which it is parted from Yorkshire. Its greatest length is about thirty-five miles, and its extreme breadth above forty-five.

The internal or western angle of this county is in general a mountainous, naked, and barren region, being crossed by that ridge of hills which has not unaptly been called *the Apennines of England*, though none of them here rise to any considerable height. It is, however, enriched by mines of lead and iron; and the mineral tract continues along the northern side of the county, till it terminates with the great beds of coal which are found between the lower parts of the Tyne and Were. Coals are also met with on the southern side. Quarries of the most useful kinds of stone are common, and the famous Newcastle grindstones are the product of this county. The eastern and middle parts of Durham are for the most part fertile and agreeable, varied with hill and dale, arable and pasturage. It abounds in cattle, numbers of which are sent to the  
more



more southern counties. The Tees-water bull and ram are both very fine animals of their species. The cattle are large, short-horned, and reckoned equal in their produce of milk and quickness of fattening to almost any breed in the kingdom. Of sheep, there are both the large long-wooled, and the small fine-wooled kinds.

Of its rivers, the *Derwent* may first be mentioned, which, rising near the wild borders of Northumberland, makes the boundary of the two counties for some space; then, crossing a corner of Durham, makes its way through a beautifully romantic tract to the Tyne, which it joins a little above Newcastle. On and near its banks towards its termination are some capital iron works, where the ore is smelted, and the metal cast and wrought into various massy articles.

Through the midst of the county winds a beautiful river, the *Wear*, which rises just in the western angle, and receiving numerous tributary rills from the mountains, takes its  
course



course along a fine valley, by the city of Durham, to the sea below Sunderland.

The *Tees* rises very near the source of the *Were*, and runs a winding course, of about equal length, to the sea, which it enters with a broad mouth below Stockton. By its means the lead and corn of the county find a conveyance for exportation. The banks of both these rivers are rendered busy and populous by a variety of works, as breweries, corn and paper mills, forges, and the like. In many parts, they, as well as the other streams, are fringed with wood of considerable growth and value.

The ancient city of *Durham*, the capital of the county, and the seat of the richly beneficed clergy of its see, and of many of the neighbouring gentry, is a considerable place, irregularly built on a beautiful winding of the *Were*, whose banks are covered with woods, and edged with lofty crags. The cathedral is a large and magnificent edifice; the buildings of the city in general



ral old. Durham possesses a manufactory of woollen goods, such as shalloons, tammies, flannels, and carpets: around it are grown large quantities of the best mustard, which yields very profitable crops. *Nevil's-Cross*, near this city, was erected in memory of a great victory obtained under the auspices of Philippa, queen of Edward III. in 1346, over David Bruce, king of Scotland, who was taken prisoner in the action with many of his nobles.

Ten miles above Durham, on a high winding bank of the Were, is *Bishop-Aukland*, a neat market town, distinguished by the magnificent summer-palace, and beautiful park, of the Bishop. It has a cotton manufactory.

*Chester-le-street*, on the Were, below Durham, has a capital iron foundery; and at *Birtley*, in its neighbourhood, is a remarkable salt spring, rising at a great depth in the earth, and yielding a large quantity of excellent salt.

At the mouth of the Tyne, on the Dur-  
I ham



ham side, lies the considerable and populous village of *South-Shields*, which participates in the trade of Newcastle, many of the largest colliers loading there. Many ships are built at this place, and belong to it. There are also here salt-works (now declined in business) and glass-houses.

Proceeding along the coast, *Sunderland* succeeds, a large and thriving town, which for the exportation of coals is next in consequence, on this side of the kingdom, to Newcastle. Its port, on the mouth of the *Were*, though improved from its former state, will not admit the largest ships: but vessels can get out to sea from hence much more readily than from the Tyne. The coals are brought down the *Were* from numerous pits near its banks. There are several glass-houses at *Sunderland*; and it also exports grindstones and other articles. *Bishop's Weremouth*, almost adjoining to it, has a manufactory of sail cloth. The whole circumjacent country is very populous. An iron bridge has lately been thrown over the  
Were



Were at its mouth, which is one of the wonders of modern mechanism. It consists of a single arch, which spans 236 feet, and rises at its centre 100 feet above high-water mark, so that large vessels can sail under it without lowering their top-masts.

The coast southwards from hence is rocky, and broken into deep caverns. The next port is *Hartlepool*, situated upon a little hook of land, forming within a safe harbour, the refuge of ships in storms and contrary winds. Its own trade is not considerable, chiefly consisting of the fishery, and the export of lime, of which great quantities are burnt at the back of the town.

The Tees has no port at its mouth; but at some distance up the river is *Stockton*, a handsome flourishing town, which has a large manufactory of sail cloth. Goods are imported here for the surrounding country; and the lead and corn, sent down the river from the interior parts, are exported by commission.

*Darlington*, in the southern part of the  
D county,



county, has long been noted for the manufacture of the table and napkin linen called huckabacks. It is partly made from English flax from the south of Yorkshire, and partly from foreign, imported at Stockton. Most of it goes to London by sea. This town has also a thriving manufactory of woollen stuffs, or camlets, made chiefly from the wool of the neighbourhood: these are likewise principally sent to London. Some small wares of the Manchester kind are also made here; and there is a considerable trade in dressing leather. A curious water machine for grinding optical glasses, and for spinning linen yarn, has lately been erected here, the invention of a native of the town.



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YORKSHIRE.



## Y O R K S H I R E.

THIS county, double in size to any other in England, is bounded on the north by Durham and Westmoreland; on the east by the German ocean; on the west by Westmoreland and Lancashire; and on the south by the counties of Chester, Derby, Nottingham, and Lincoln. Its most remarkable natural inland boundaries are, the river Tees to the north, the ridge of hills called the English Apennines to the west, and the arm of the sea named the Humber to the south-east. The length of this county is above eighty miles, and its breadth an hundred. From its great extent it has been distributed into three main divisions, called *Ridings*. Of these the North Riding comprehends the whole northern part from side to side, descending to the capital in the centre: the East Riding takes the south-eastern part, from the river Ouse to the sea; and the



West Riding comprises all the rest of the county, which is not only the western, but most of the southern part.

Yorkshire, in this wide compass, contains an abstract of the whole kingdom with respect to soil, products, and face of country. Towards the north-west and west it possesses all the grandeur and romantic variety of the mountainous regions. The middle part, from north to south, is equal in fertility to most tracts of land in England. Part of the south and south-east is marshy, and affords excellent pasturage for cattle. Much flax is grown in parts of this district. The sea-coast, except the southern part of it, is in general naked and dreary, consisting of wide extended moors and barren hills.

This county is extremely well watered, and its rivers are disposed in a singularly beautiful manner. They rise, in general, in the mountainous skirts of the county, from the north-east round to the south-west; and, uniting as they proceed towards its centre, like the veins of a spreading leaf, at length terminate



terminate in one main trunk, which issues in the *Humber*. Of these the principal, and that which alone preserves its name to the Humber, is the *Northern Ouse*. The parents of this river are the *Ure* and *Swale*, rising near each other in the romantic borders of Westmoreland. These, after collecting all the rills from this mountainous region, unite at Aldborough, and from thence take the name of the Ouse, which now forms a large river. It flows through York, where it is navigable for considerable vessels; and afterwards receives the *Wharfe*, coming down from the north-west: then the *Derwent*, loaded with all the streams from the north-east; and, lastly, the *Aire*, formed by the united Aire and *Calder* from the west, and joined near its termination in the Ouse by the *Dun* and its tributary streams, from the south-west. By this disposition, as far as these rivers can be made navigable, all the parts of this extensive county enjoy an intercourse with each other, and with the sea.

In describing the objects chiefly worthy of



notice in this county, I shall begin by tracing the sea-coast.

From the mouth of the Tees the Yorkshire coast commences high and rude, interspersed with many fishing villages, singularly placed like nests upon the ledges of the rocks. No coast in England abounds more in fish of various kinds than this; and it breeds an industrious and hardy race of fishermen, who pursue their prey to great distances, and supply the inland country for a large extent. The district of *Cleveland*, inland from the river Tees and the northern part of the coast, is a fertile, though hilly, country, grows much corn, and breeds great numbers of cattle.

*Whitby*, the farthest port in this county to the north, is a considerable town, which has a great traffic in the building of ships, and the carrying business. Its harbour is the best on this coast, and is protected by a fine pier; but it has no river-communication with the inland country. Several ships are sent from hence to the Greenland fishery.



This place had the honour of initiating in his profession the greatest navigator that the world ever saw—the late much-lamented Captain Cook.

In the neighbourhood of Whitby are large works, in which alum is procured from a kind of slate. There is one of these works also at *Guisborough* in Cleveland. The country inland from this part of the coast to a great extent is called the eastern moorlands, a wild mountainous tract, chiefly composed of a barren gritstone.

*Robinhood's bay*, noted for fishing, succeeds; and next *Scarborough*, a large town, built on a rocky eminence, well known as a place for sea bathing. It possesses a considerable shipping trade, and is much engaged in the fisheries.

A remarkable promontory, called *Flam-  
borough-head*, is the next distinguished object, whose lofty snow-white cliffs are seen far out at sea, and serve for a direction to ships. Its rocks are occupied by numberless multitudes of sea fowl of various kinds,



which fill the air and ocean all around. Inland from Flamborough begins an elevated tract of country called the *wolds*, which widening as it proceeds, extends at last from Malton almost to the Humber. It is a cold and dry district, abounding in sheep, and productive of corn. Immediately south of the Head begins *Bridlington* or *Burlington bay*, a place of refuge for the coasting vessels. It has a village called *Burlington quay*, where ships load and unload. This place is much frequented for sea bathing. From hence the coast runs low and unvaried to the *Spurnhead*, a long sickle-shaped promontory, guarding the mouth of the Humber.

Turning up this large arm of the sea, we come to the great port of *Hull*, or *Kingston upon Hull*, the rivulet upon which it is situated. This is a fortified town, and was the first that shut its gates against Charles I. but its fortifications are now inconsiderable, while its commerce has gone on increasing, so as to render it probably the fourth port for business in the kingdom. Its situation  
is



is extremely advantageous; for, besides its communication with the Yorkshire rivers and canals, it has also access, by means of the Humber, to the Trent and all its branches and communications, now greatly increased by navigable canals: hence it has the import and export trade of many of the northern and midland counties. The foreign trade is chiefly to the Baltic; but it has also regular traffic with the southern parts of Europe and with America. More ships are sent from hence to Greenland than from any other port, that of London excepted. The coasting trade, for coals, corn, wool, manufactured goods, &c. is very extensive. The harbour of Hull is artificial, consisting of a dock, said to be the largest in the kingdom, with which the river communicates. The construction of a new dock is now in contemplation.

The country to the north and east of Hull, called *Holderness*, is in general a flat tract of land, with a very rich soil, and is remarkable for its large breeds of horned cattle



cattle and horses. The town of *Beverley*, in this district, is a neat well-built place, possessed of a fine ancient minster.

The city of *York* has always been considered as the capital of the north, and in point of rank, as the second in the kingdom; and, though it is now left behind in wealth and populousness by many of the newer trading towns, it still supports a considerable degree of consequence, and is inhabited by many genteel families. Its minster is reckoned the most elegant and magnificent gothic structure in the kingdom, Lincoln perhaps excepted. From its top is seen a vast extent of country, particularly the open Wolds to the east, stretching almost to the sea. A sandy fertile vale extends from the east of York several miles, in a north-westerly direction on the course of the Ouse and Swale. The races at York have been much frequented as well as those at Doncaster and other places in this county, which is celebrated for its fine breeds of horses of the race and hunting kinds, as well as for the knowledge



knowledge of the inhabitants in all the arts of jockeyship.

Ascending the Ouse, to the Ure, we come to *Rippon*, which had once a manufactory of hardware, now almost extinct. It is chiefly remarkable at present for its market of corn and butter. Rippon has an ancient minster.

The sources of the Ure and the Swale are in the district called *Richmondshire*, formerly a county of itself; a region abounding in romantic situations, and noted for the neatness and industry of its inhabitants, who manufacture knit stockings and other coarse goods. Many lead mines are wrought in these parts. The hilly tracts are generally known under the name of the western moorlands. A great number of small hardy horses are bred among them. Of the vales by which they are intersected, *Wensley-dale*, through which the Ure flows, is most distinguished for its beauty and fertility.

Southward from hence lies the wide district of *Craven*, an open and hilly country, famous for breeding and feeding great numbers



bers of cattle. Two of the highest hills in England, *Ingleborough* and *Wharfedale*, are in this tract. The country about *Settle* is noted, among botanists, for the variety of curious and uncommon plants among its rocky scars.

The western side of Craven abounds with limestone, which is not to be found southwards between this district and several miles within Derbyshire. A stripe of limestone, about five or six miles broad, traverses Yorkshire from north to south, leaving the high barren moors of Black Hamilton to the east, and Knaresborough forest to the west, passing on the western side of Tadcaster, and after leaving Doncaster two or three miles on the east, proceeding onward into Nottinghamshire. Botanists know when they are within a mile of this stripe by several plants not found on grit-stone.

East of Craven lies that sterile tract, now indeed mostly enclosed, called *Knaresborough forest*. Its inhabitants are chiefly employed in manufacturing coarse linen cloths, such as  
huckabacks



huckabacks and sheeting, which they carry to Knaresborough market. This town has fine remains of an ancient castle, which, with the Forest, are part of the estates of the Dutchy of Lancaster. There are several very peculiar customs among the laws of the Forest.

Below Craven commences the *clothing country*, the great scene of the industry, wealth, and populousness, of the West Riding. The manufacture of woollen cloths and stuffs, of late years greatly increased, extends over a tract, of which Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, and Wakefield, are the principal centres. The rivers Aire and Calder, flowing through the midst of it, give fruitfulness to the country, and facility to the transport of manufactures and raw materials. The Aire is navigable from Leeds; and there is a canal from this town to Holmbridge beyond Skipton, which is meant to extend to the distant port of Liverpool. With this, Bradford has a communicating branch. From Wakefield the Calder is  
made



made navigable to Sowerby, above Halifax. The plenty of fuel in this country, the introduction of machines to shorten labour, and the industry and sobriety of the inhabitants, greatly promoted by the excellent mode in which the manufacture is carried on, which is by small makers in the little towns and villages, who take their goods to the larger markets—all these circumstances have caused trade to flourish here, at the expense of the western parts of the kingdom.

*Leeds*, situated in a vale, which trade has rendered one of the most populous spots in England, is the principal of the clothing towns. The poet Dyer has given a striking view of the prospect it affords:

Wide around

Hillock and valley, farm and village, smile:  
 And ruddy roofs and chimney tops appear  
 Of busy Leeds, up-wafting to the clouds  
 The incense of thanksgiving: all is joy;  
 And trade and bus'ness guide the living scene;  
 Roll the full cars; adown the winding Aire  
 Load the slow sailing barges; pile the pack  
 On the long tinkling train of slow-pac'd steeds.

FLEECE.

Leeds



Leeds is particularly the mart for the coloured and white broad cloths, of which vast quantities are sold in its cloth-halls. That called *the mixed cloth hall* is a building of amazing extent, in which the cloth is placed on benches for sale every market day; and the whole business is transacted within the space of an hour, without the least confusion. The white cloth hall is a similar building. The manufactures that supply these two halls extend about ten miles to the south, fifteen to the south-west, and eight to the north and west; the mixed cloths being mostly made in the neighbourhood of the river Aire, and the white cloths in that of the Calder. The cloths are sold in the halls in a rough state, and are finished by the merchants, who employ for the purpose a number of dressers, dyers, &c. of whom the chief population of Leeds is composed. Leeds has a manufactory of coarse camlets, but declined; and a flourishing one of carpets, resembling both the Wiltshire and Scotch. Here is also carried on a large wholesale trade in tobacco,  
for



for the cutting of which some mills have been erected. There is a great pottery in, and another some miles from, the town, whence considerable quantities of earthen ware are exported to Scotland, Ireland, the Baltic and Mediterranean. Within three miles of the town are numerous collieries, which supply not only Leeds, but various other places.

*Halifax*, situated in a hilly country, of rather difficult access, but full of people, is the great market for stuffs, such as shalloons, tammies, serges, calamancoes, everlastings, &c. It has also a very large market-house, called *the new piece hall*, as well as various others for particular goods. A large proportion of these articles are sold abroad. The stuff manufactory is carried on fifteen or sixteen miles to the west and north-west. To the south-west as far as Blackstonedgedale are the makers of kerseys, some of whom directly export their own goods to Germany to a large amount. Some of the Halifax manufacturers have lately engaged largely in the cloth and coasting trade.

*Bradford*



*Bradford* deals in similar commodities to those of Halifax, made in its neighbourhood. A capital iron foundry has lately been established in the parish.

*Wakefield*, a handsome town on the Calder, trades in white cloths, and tammies. It is inhabited by several gentlemen of fortune, and opulent merchants. A great quantity of wool is sold at its markets.

*Keighley* has a manufactory of figured everlastings, shalloons, &c. and broad cloths. This town is the northern boundary of the makers of goods for Halifax market. The same goods are made on the banks of the Calder above Sowerby. The frugality and industry of these people enable them to undersell all their rivals in foreign markets.

*Huddersfield*, a town risen up in this century, situated amidst barren moors, is the mart for narrow cloths, called plains. This manufacture extends ten miles to the south, where the coarsest cloths are made, which are exported to the Mediterranean. On the south-west it extends to *Saddleworth*, a very

E

populous



populous district, where the finest narrow and broad cloths are made, some of which are directly exported by the makers to Ireland. It is to be observed that the merchants of all these towns attend all the several markets, dealing in the manufactures of the other districts, as well as of those which they inhabit.

The Yorkshire woollens, besides home consumption, are exported in large quantities to Holland, Germany, Russia, Spain, and Italy. The manufacturers receive their wool from various parts; some from Spain, for the finest cloths: also from the southern parts of England, Shropshire, and Norfolk. The worsted stuffs are chiefly made of the long Lincolnshire and Leicestershire wool.

Near the banks of the Aire is *Pontefract*, or *Pomfret*, situated in a very rich soil, and noted for its nursery-grounds and large plantations of liquorice. Its castle has been the scene of various tragical events in English history, particularly the murder of the unfortunate king Richard II. after his deposition.



In the southern extremity of the county stands *Sheffield*, a very populous town, long celebrated for its various hardware manufactories. These are in an increasing state, and particularly consist of cutlery wares, silver and plated goods and buttons. An assay-office lately established in the town has been of great service to its trade. By means of the river Dun, which is navigable within two or three miles of the town, it receives iron from Hull, and conveys thither its manufactures for exportation to America and the West Indies, as well as various parts of Europe. Its neighbourhood, as well as all this part of the county, abounds with coals. There are also at Sheffield lead-works and a silk-mill. The Sheffield manufactures extend several miles over the country. The land to the west of Sheffield is chiefly moors on which sheep are fed. A breed peculiar to the country takes its name from *Peniston*, the market town where they are principally sold. These are light and active, and prove excellent meat when fattened.



At *Rotheram*, on the Dun, is a large iron smelting work and foundry, also mills for the rolling of iron into sheets, and for making plates for tinning. These works have the advantage of water-conveyance to and from Hull. Coal and iron ore are procured near the town. Much lime is also burnt here; and a pottery is established.

*Barnsley*, situated among coal and iron-works, has a considerable trade in iron wire, and some other articles of hard-ware. Canals are planned from this place to the Calder and the Dun.

*Harrowgate*, near *Knareborough*, is celebrated for its sulphureous mineral water, used internally and externally in scorbutic disorders.

Yorkshire, from the ancient consequence of its capital, and from its situation towards Scotland, has been distinguished by many important transactions in the English history.

At North Allerton was fought, in 1137, the *battle of the standard*, in which David  
king



king of Scotland, who had laid waste the whole country, was defeated with great slaughter.

In 1460 Richard duke of York was defeated and slain by the Lancastrians near Wakefield: but, in the ensuing year, this defeat was revenged by his son, afterwards Edward IV. who, at Towton, near Shirburn, gained a complete victory, in which thirty-five thousand men are said to have fallen on both sides. The whole number in the field was one hundred thousand, the greatest ever engaged in these destructive wars.

In the year 1644 the parliament army gave a signal defeat to the royalists at Marston-moor, near York, which was the commencement of the king's ill success, and of Cromwell's great influence and reputation.

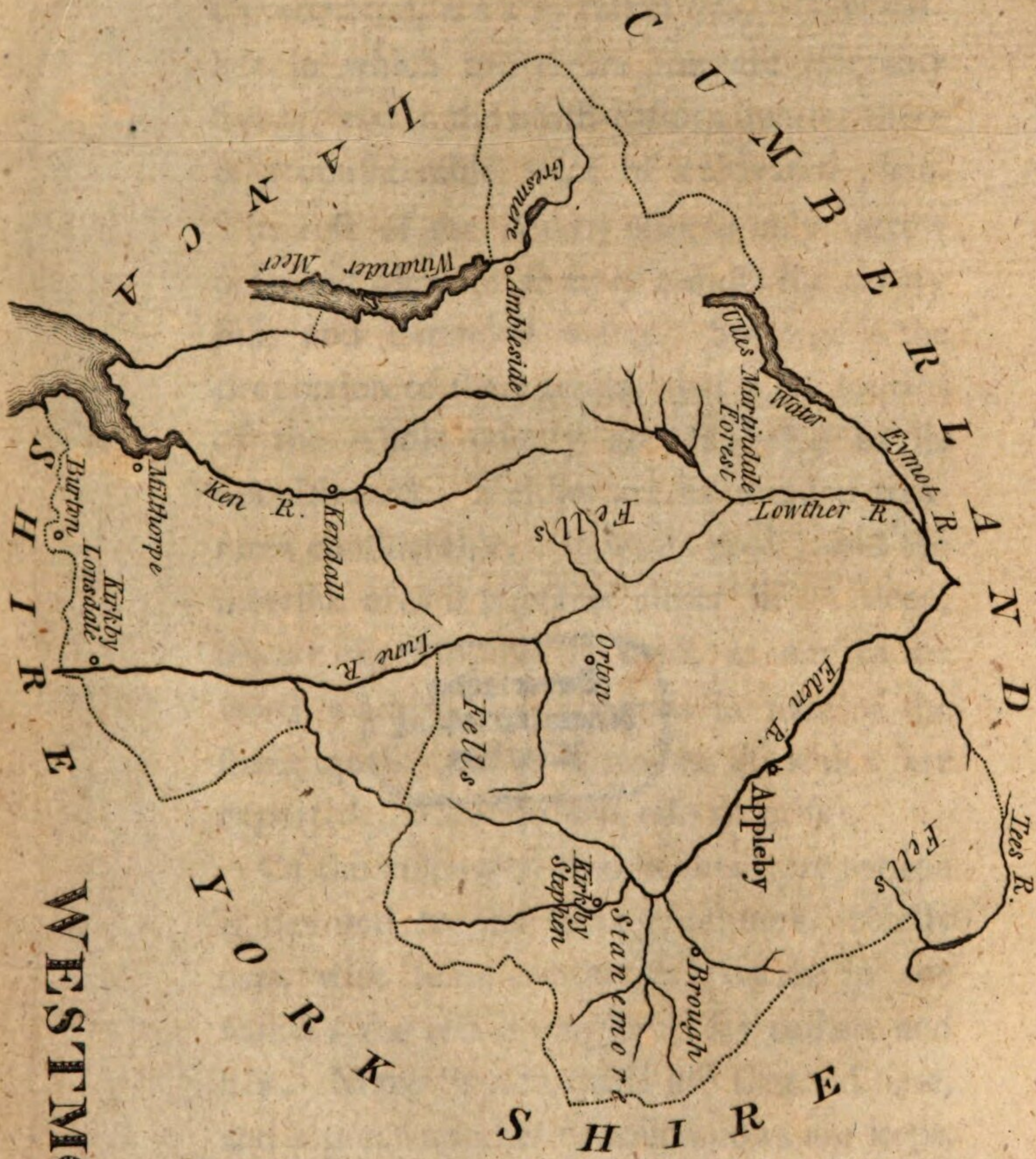


## WESTMORELAND.

THIS county is enclosed between those of Cumberland, York, and Lancaster; the first bounding it on the north and north-west; the second on the east; and the last on the south and south-west. It has the natural boundaries of lakes, streams, and mountains, almost every where except to the south, where it sinks undistinguishably into Lancashire. From the sea it is excluded by the detached part of Lancashire; and only just touches upon the bottom of that wide sandy wash which separates the two parts of that county. Its shape is irregularly angular, somewhat resembling that of a vine-leaf. Its size is less than of the other northern counties; yet, in its greatest length and breadth, it measures about forty miles.

The name of this county is descriptive of its nature. It is the *west moor-land*; a region  
of





WESTMORELAND.



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of lofty mountains, naked hills, and black barren moors, which here, as well as in Cumberland, are also called *fells*. The vallies in which the rivers run are tolerably fertile; and in the north-eastern quarter there is a considerable tract of cultivated plain. The rest of the county affords only narrow dells and glens of fertility amidst the dreary hills and extended wastes. So large is the proportion of these tracts, that three fourths of the whole county are supposed to lie uncultivated. Neither are its mineral treasures considerable. It wants coals; and the metallic ores it contains either lie so deep, or are so remotely situated, as not to be worth working. It abounds in slate of the finest quality, large quantities of which are exported. Limestone is also plentiful.

Of the cultivated land, a small proportion is devoted to the raising of corn, chiefly oats, with some wheat and barley in the vallies; the rest is employed for pasture and hay. Many Scotch cattle are fattened here, and a great number of milch cows are kept,



which supply the London markets with a large quantity of excellent butter in firkins. The mountains feed great flocks of sheep, and many black cattle. Numbers of geese are bred on the moors, and afford an article of exportation. The Westmoreland hams are in considerable esteem, and form one of the exports of the county.

The most extensive lake in England, *Winander Mere*, lies between this county and Lancashire. It is remarkable, as well for its beauty, as for the fine char it produces; a fish only found in this island in some lakes of these parts, and in a few Welsh lakes. North of this are lofty mountains in which eagles breed, communicating with those in Cumberland; then succeeds the large lake of *Ulles-water*, between the two counties; to the south of which lie other lakes, in the forest of *Martindale*, where the red deer are still found in a wild state. Out of *Ulles-lake* flows the *Eymot*, which, in its course to join the *Eden*, forms the boundary of the county for some space. It receives the  
*Lowther,*



*Lowther*, which rises out of the lake called *Broad-water*.

The *Eden*, already mentioned as the principal river of Cumberland, has its source in the wildest part of this county, on the borders of Yorkshire; and in its course washes the town of Appleby. Other streams join it from the eastern angle of Westmoreland, which chiefly consists of the “wintry waste” of *Stanemore*, a region of most savage aspect, which has been described both in poetry and romance.

Not far from the source of the *Eden* is that of the *Lon* or *Lune*, a beautiful river, flowing southwards along the borders of Westmoreland and Yorkshire, by Kirkby Lonsdale, below which it leaves this county for Lancashire.

Another stream, whose whole course is in this county, is the *Kan*, or *Ken*, which flows by Kendal, and discharges itself into the sandy wash of Lancashire. It has a cataract near its mouth, which renders it incapable of navigation; so that the village of *Mil-throp*,



*throp*, situated on a little creek near the Ken's mouth, is the only port of this county; nor is it capable of receiving more than very small vessels. From hence are exported the fine Westmoreland flates to Liverpool, London, Hull, and other places.

The county town of *Appleby* is an inconsiderable place, though situated in the most fertile part of Westmoreland. It has the principal corn market of these parts.

The only commercial town of the county is *Kendal*, long noted for its woollen manufactories, which it still supports with vigour, notwithstanding its disadvantage of possessing no water-carriage; such are the effects of active industry and frugality. Large quantities of wool from Leicestershire and Durham are here wrought into woven and knit stockings, which are chiefly sent to London in waggons. The coarse wool of Westmoreland is wrought into a thick stuff called *cottons*, which are principally sent to Glasgow, and exported for the clothing of the negroes, or used for  
sailors'



failors' jackets. There is also a manufactory of linsey-woolsey, for home consumption; the wool for which comes from the neighbouring counties and Scotland. The tanning business also employs many hands here.



## LANCASHIRE.

THIS county, bounded on the north by Westmoreland and a part of Cumberland, on the east by Yorkshire, on the west by the Irish sea, and on the south by Cheshire, is irregularly shaped, and remarkable for having a considerable district entirely detached from the rest, across an arm of the sea. Its greatest length (exclusive of this detached part) is about sixty miles; its greatest breadth, which is at its southern end, about forty-five.

In this extent is comprised a variety of soil and face of country; but, in general, this county is one of those which are the least favoured by nature; a proof of which is the ancient thinness of its population, shewn by the very small number of parishes into which it was divided.

The disjoined part of Lancashire, called the hundred of *Furness*, partakes of the romantic



# LANCASHIRE.





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mantic character of the adjacent counties. It is a wild and rugged region, stored with quantities of iron ore and slate, and covered with a growth of underwood, which is cut down in succession, and made into charcoal for the use of the iron furnaces. A considerable lake, *Coniston-meer*, lies in this tract, which yields char as well as the neighbouring *Winander*. Near the sea, and in the vicinity of the ancient abbey of *Furness*, the land is tolerably fertile. The long and narrow *isle of Walney* forms its bulwark against the waves of the Irish sea. The port of this district is at *Ulverstone*, situated on a shallow arm of the sea, into which the *Leven* and other streams enter. This arm, as well as the broad estuary separating *Furness* from the rest of Lancashire, is continually crossed by horses and carriages at low water, though not without some danger.

The main part of the county may be divided into two unequal portions, the smaller lying between the borders of *Westmoreland* and the *Ribble*, the larger between the *Ribble* and the *Mersey*.

In



In the first of these, the banks of the *Lon* or *Lune*, which comes down from Westmoreland, and enters the sea below Lancaster, are beautiful and romantic. The country about *Garstang* breeds a fine race of horned cattle, reckoned as perfect in their form as any in England. The tract between the road from hence to Preston, and the sea, called the *Fild* or *Field*, is flat, and produces large quantities of oats. Through this runs the river *Wier*, or *Wyre*, the mouth of which is below Poulton. Near that town is *Blackpool*, a village on the coast much resorted to for sea bathing. The eastern part of this portion, comprising the old forests of *Wierdale* and *Bowland*, is mountainous and generally barren.

The *Ribble*, entering the county from Yorkshire at *Clithero*, and, after passing by Preston, discharging itself by a broad sandy outlet, flows through a vale of great fertility and beauty. Of the large tract between this river and the *Mersey* all the southern part is flat, quite from the sea to the commencement of the ridge called *Black-ston-*  
*edge,*



*edge*, separating this county from Yorkshire. Much of this is a fertile country, though occasionally deformed by the black turf bogs, here called mosses; some of which are of large extent, and absolutely impassable in wet seasons. In the north-eastern part of this division are some lofty hills, among which the most noted is *Pendle-hill*. The remaining part is varied with hill, dale, and moor.

The boundary river, the *Mersey*, after receiving above Stockport the *Tame*, (which takes up the boundary where the *Mersey* leaves it) and somewhat lower, the *Irwell*, bringing down a conflux of other streams from Manchester, winds through a tract of rich meadows; and, after passing Warrington, soon dilates into a wide sandy estuary, which, contracting again, reaches the sea below Liverpool.

Such is the general face of this county, the natural products of which are of little consequence, except the coal and turf, with which its southern parts abound. For a corn country it is little adapted, not only in  
many



many parts from the nature of its soil, but from the remarkable wetness of its climate, occasioned by the frequent clouds which, in their passage from the western sea, are here first stopped by the inland ridge of hills. The grain principally cultivated is oats; but the whole growth of corn is supposed not to exceed a three month's consumption of the inhabitants. The land is, however, found to be singularly fitted to the growth of potatoes, that useful root, which forms the best substitute for corn, and yields a greater increase than almost any other nutritious vegetable. A considerable quantity of cheese, and some of excellent quality, is made in the county.

All the rivers of Lancashire afford salmon; and the Mersey is visited by annual shoals of smelts, here called sparlings, of remarkable size and flavour.

As a commercial and manufacturing county, this has distinguished itself, especially of late years, beyond any other in the kingdom. Two larger and more flourishing towns than any other single county possesses,



nesses, Manchester and Liverpool, are mutual aids to each other in the acquisition of wealth.

*Manchester*, which has been long noted for various branches of the linen, silk, and cotton manufactory, is now principally conspicuous as the centre of the cotton trade, an immense business, extending in some or other of its operations from Furness (where great cotton-spinning mills have been established) to Derby, north and south; and, from Halifax to Liverpool, east and west. The labours of a very populous neighbourhood are collected at Manchester; whence they are sent to London, Liverpool, Hull, and other places. These consist of a great variety of cotton and mixed goods, fitted for all sorts of markets, both at home or abroad, spreading over great part of Europe, America, and the coast of Guinea, and bringing back vast profits to this country. The raw material is principally imported at Liverpool and Lancaster; but is occasionally brought from London and other ports. The manufacture of tapes and other small wares,

F of



of silk goods and of hats, is also carried on at Manchester; and the late improvements in machinery for spinning cotton and other purposes have caused the erection of numerous steam engines, which give employ to a vastly augmented population. Iron foundries and other branches of subordinate manufacture have also proportionally increased. From these various sources of wealth Manchester has attained greater opulence than almost any of the trading towns in England. Its buildings, especially the more modern ones, are on a proportional scale of size and elegance. Its water-communications have lately been extended by canals to several of the neighbouring towns, some of them penetrating across the hills into Yorkshire, and forming connexions with the port of Hull and the German ocean.

*Liverpool*, situated at the great inlet of this part of the county, by means of the Mersey and its communicating rivers and canals, has grown in proportion to the increase of interior wealth and population, so  
as



as at length to have become, with respect to extent of commerce, undoubtedly the second port in the kingdom. Its harbour is artificial, consisting of large docks formed in the town, and communicating with the river Mersey. The entrance of this river is dangerous, though every direction is given to render it more secure. The trade of Liverpool is very general; but it is to be lamented that one of its principal branches is the inhuman traffic for slaves on the coast of Guinea, to supply the West India islands, from whence in return great quantities of sugar, cotton, and other products are imported. The American, Baltic, and Portugal branches are also considerable; and the communication with Ireland is very extensive. Several ships are also sent to the Greenland fishery; and there is a great coasting trade for corn and other commodities. Liverpool communicates, by means of the Mersey, with Warrington, and with a canal called the Sankey canal, running to some coal-pits and other works a little way up the country; by means of the Irwell, and also the Duke of



Bridgewater's canal, with Manchester, and all the places to which the numerous canals from that town run; by means of the Weaver, with the Cheshire salt works; and, by means of the Duke of Bridgewater's canal, with the Staffordshire and all its communications. A vast design is also in part executed, of cutting a canal from Liverpool quite to Leeds in Yorkshire. This already brings down great quantities of coal from the neighbourhood of Wigan. The present war has been peculiarly favourable to the commerce of Liverpool, which has obtained by it almost a monopoly of the African trade, and a vast extension of all its other branches. Hence it has taken a start in opulence and population, which seems without dispute to place it next to the metropolis in these respects. New docks and other improvements are at this time undertaken; and the institution of a public library, upon a scale much beyond any other in the kingdom, does credit to the spirit by which this prosperity is accompanied.

Most of the other towns in this county  
are



are distinguished by some particular branch of trade.

*Lancaster*, the capital, is a well-built and populous town, having a port for vessels of moderate burthen, and carrying on a considerable foreign trade, especially to the West Indies. It is noted for the making of mahogany cabinet ware.

*Preston*, which participates only in a small degree in the manufactures of the county, is a handsome place, inhabited by many families of gentry, invited by its beautiful situation. It has been the scene of various actions in our civil wars, particularly in the rebellion of 1715. Several law-courts for the county and duchy are held here.

*Kirkham*, in the *Fild*, has a considerable manufactory of sail-cloth, and other coarse linens.

At *Wigan*, the strongest checks are made, and other articles of linen and cotton manufacture. That most elegant species of coal, called Cannel, is found in plenty and great perfection in its neighbourhood. Its small stream, the *Douglas*, is made navigable to the



Ribble; and it is joined by a canal from Liverpool.

*Warrington*, the great thoroughfare to the north-west, has a large manufactory of sail-cloth, which contributes much to the supply of the royal navy; and also of facking. Glass houses and copper smelting works are likewise established here (the latter at present disused); and many hands are employed in pin-making. The cotton trade is now gaining ground in this place.

*Bolton*, situated amidst dreary moors, has enriched itself by the fustian and counterpane branches of manufacture. Dimities and muslins are also made here in considerable quantities. Bleaching and cotton-spinning are extensively carried on in its neighbourhood.

*Bury* participates largely in the cotton trade, and has near it some of the most capital printing works in Lancashire.

*Blackburn*, to the north of it, still more remote from the centre of business, carries on a vast trade in calicoes for printing.

About



About *Burnley* shalloons are made for the *Halifax* market.

*Rochdale*, at the foot of the Yorkshire hills, has a flourishing manufactory of bays, serges, flannels, coatings, and other woollen goods.

Part of these are exported or sent to London by the Yorkshire merchants; but considerable quantities are sent directly to Portugal by the Rochdale merchants. This town has got most of the trade from Bocking and other places in Essex. Its manufactures extend eight or ten miles north of the town.

*Oldham*, though no market town, is become extremely populous. Being situated among the hills that produce the best coals, a large manufactory of hats has been established there. It also shares in the Manchester manufactures.

Besides all these branches there are, in various parts, considerable works in iron and steel, particularly of the best files in England; nails, locks, and hinges; watch-tools and movements; and smelting and refining copper. These are favoured by the un-



common plenty of coals of almost every kind in this county. This circumstance too has occasioned the establishment, near *Prescot*, of a patent manufactory of cast plate glass, after the French manner; the only one in the kingdom.

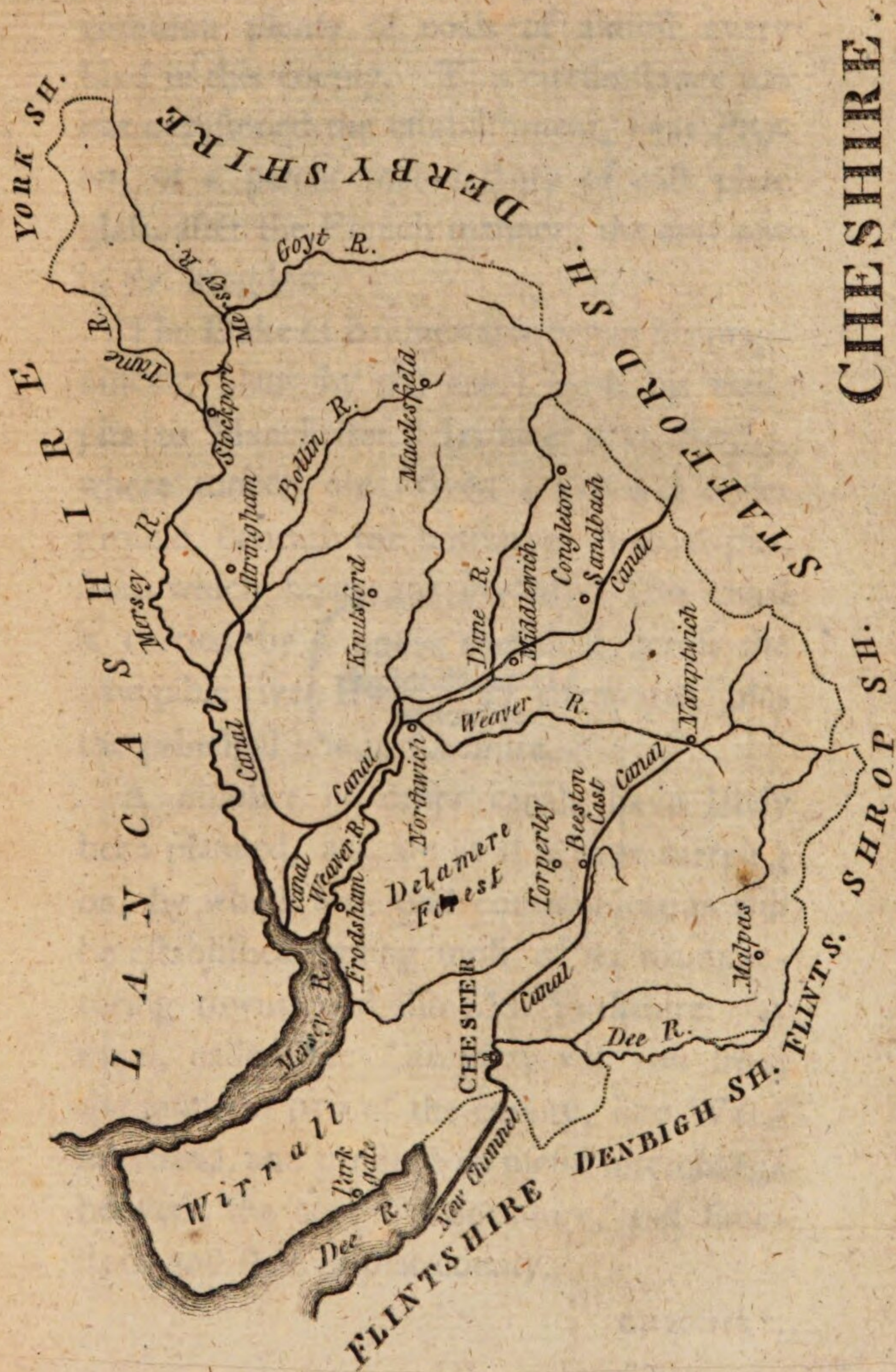
The Duke of Bridgewater began his magnificent plans by the canal from his coal-pits to Manchester. Its head is at *Worsley*, where tunnels are driven a vast way underground, beneath the bottom of the coal-pits, from which boats are loaded. This canal is carried by a noble aqueduct across the navigable river Irwell, and afterwards joins the principal one in Cheshire.

A number of other canals have lately been planned, and are at this time carrying on, by which a mutual communication will be established among most of its manufacturing towns, and also with Yorkshire. A canal, called the *Lancaster*, will run from the southern part of the county, into Westmoreland, and produce an useful interchange between the coal of Lancashire, and limestone and slate of that county.



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## C H E S H I R E.

THIS county, distinguished in its figure by the two horns which project to the east and west of its northern side, is bounded on the north by the rivers Mersey and Tame, which separate it from Lancashire, and by a small point of Yorkshire; on the east, by the counties of Derby and Stafford, the limits of which are marked for the most part by hills and streams; on the south by Shropshire and a detached part of Flintshire; and on the west by Denbighshire, Flintshire, and the estuary of the Dee. Its length is thirty miles; its extreme breadth, from horn to horn, almost sixty; but across its middle part not forty.

Cheshire is in general a flat country. Its most hilly part is towards the eastern border, where are some considerable eminences, forming a chain with the Derbyshire and Staffordshire hills. An interrupted ridge of  
high



high ground also crosses it from north to south on the western side, beginning with a bold promontory, overlooking the Mersey near Frodsham; then crossing that large tract of heath called *Delamere-forest*; appearing again in the insulated rock of *Beeston*, crowned with the ruins of its strong castle; and ceasing in the wooded *Broxton* hills near Malpas. The rest of the county is nearly level: its soil in many parts light and sandy, with much red grit rock, on which almost all the towns and villages are built; in others stiff clay; with an intermixture of uncultivated moss and heath. Yet the proportion of waste ground to the cultivated on the whole is not estimated at above one eleventh. Several small lakes, called *meres*, are interspersed, particularly in the northern parts.

The rivers in this county are, first, the *Dee*, a stream held in great veneration by our British ancestors. It has its rise, and the principal part of its course, in Wales, and only visits the western border of Cheshire,  
to



to which it serves for some space as a boundary; then crossing over to the city of Chester, it flows from thence to the sea, making a broad sandy estuary, which separates this county from Flintshire. By embankments here made, much land has been gained from the tide, and a narrow, but deeper channel, fitter for navigation, has been formed from Chester half way to the sea. The Dee is navigable from near Ellesmere, in Shropshire, to Chester; but, at this city, the continuity of the navigation is broken by a ledge of rocks running across the bed of the river, and causing a sort of cascade.

The *Weever* rises in the northern part of Shropshire, and, after running across the middle of Cheshire, and receiving the *Dane* from the east, empties into the estuary of the Mersey. It is navigable to Winsford, some miles above Northwich.

The *Mersey* itself belongs more to this county than to Lancashire, since it rises just within Yorkshire; and, coasting first along  
the



the southern side of the eastern horn of Cheshire, then crosses it, and reaches Lancashire only above Stockport.

Two commodities render Cheshire particularly famous, its salt and its cheese.

The salt-works are at the three towns called *Wyches*, viz. *Namptwich*, *Middlewich*, and *Northwich*, and at *Winsford* and some other places. At most of these brine is pumped up from springs which contain the salt dissolved in the bowels of the earth, and which is procured from the brine again by boiling. At *Northwich* vast pits of solid salt rock have been dug to a great depth, from which immense quantities are raised, partly to be purified on the spot by redissolving and boiling, and partly to be exported in its crude state. Most of the latter goes to Liverpool by means of the river *Weever*; and the plenty and cheapness of this commodity has been a principal cause of the great foreign commerce of that port. The clear annual duty received by government for Cheshire salt amounts to 200,000 *l*.

The



The cheese of this county is noted for its mellowness and rich flavour; and great quantities of it are consumed in various parts of England and Scotland, as well as exported abroad. About three fourths of the land in Cheshire is supposed to be pastured or mown: and the grass, except what is eaten by horses, is chiefly consumed by milking cows, as few cattle are fattened here. The farmers are less attentive to the beauty of their cows than in many other parts, the milk being the great object: and they keep them to a great age. More calves are fed in Cheshire, during the months of March and April, than in any other part of England; but the veal is killed very young, as the milk cannot be long spared. The dairies are scattered over the whole county; but the principal are about Namptwich, and the tract between the Dane and Weever, where the soil is most clayey. The cheese is chiefly sold to London; but a good deal goes to Liverpool and the counties to the north.

The



The chief manures of this county are marl and lime; the latter mostly gotten on the eastern side. Coals are in considerable plenty in the north-east; and some are also dug in the hundred of *Wirral*, or that peninsula which lies between the Dee and Mersey, whence they are sent to Chester. The midst of the county is principally supplied from Lancashire. Stone quarries are frequent in the hilly parts. There are few considerable woods in Cheshire, but timber abounds in the hedge rows, and especially oak, the bark of which is a valuable object, on account of the many tanneries established in the county.

The great canal of the duke of Bridgewater has its principal course in Cheshire, entering the county from Manchester by crossing the Mersey, and then running parallel to it, till it falls into that river at Runcorn. With this the grand canal communicates which joins the Trent and Mersey, and is called the Staffordshire. This last canal crosses Cheshire, passing by Northwich  
and



and Middlewich. There is besides, another canal from Chester to Namptwich, intended to promote the commerce of that city by giving it the advantage of an exportation of salt; but it has failed in its effect.

The capital of the county, *Chester*, is an ancient city of moderate size. Its main streets have a peculiarity of construction not found in any other town. They are hollowed out in the rock to the depth of one story beneath the level of the ground on each side; and the houses have a sort of covered portico running on from house to house and street to street, level with the ground at the back, but one story above the street. They are called *rows*, and afford a sheltered walk for the foot passengers. Beneath them are shops and warehouses on the level of the street. Chester is walled round, though its walls are now kept up only as affording a fine walk on their top for the inhabitants. It has a castle in which a garrison of invalids is stationed. Chester has a small share of foreign commerce by means of  
of



of its port; and its two annual fairs are some of the most noted in England, especially for the sale of Irish linen. It has a manufactory of gloves; some ship-building; and a considerable traffic of shop-goods into North Wales. It is, however, chiefly distinguished as the residence of many families of gentry from the county, and from Wales.

Of the other towns, *Stockport* is now the most populous and flourishing, on account of its participating largely in the cotton manufactures. These have caused its former business of making checks, hats, and buttons, to decline, though the hat-making is still a considerable branch. It has a great market for cheese and oatmeal.

*Namptwich*, an old town of moderate size, has a considerable trade in shoes, made for the London market, and a small manufacture of gloves. Much tanning is done in this place and its vicinity.

*Macclesfield* and *Congleton* have large mills for the winding of silk. At the latter ribbons are made for the Coventry manufacturers:



turers: at the former is a considerable manufactory of mohair buttons; and extensive works for smelting copper and making brass, are erected near it.

*Knutsford* was formerly distinguished for a manufactory of thread, but it is almost extinct. Its neighbourhood is distinguished for a number of seats of the principal families of the county.

In all the above-mentioned towns the ancient branches of business are declining, and newly-erected cotton-works are rising upon their ruins. This flourishing branch of manufacture seems now extending through Cheshire, as it has done over Lancashire.

The village of *Parkgate* near the mouth of the Dee is well known as a place of transit between this kingdom and Ireland, though less used since the establishment of regular carriages through Wales to Holyhead. *Parkgate* is also frequented for sea-bathing.

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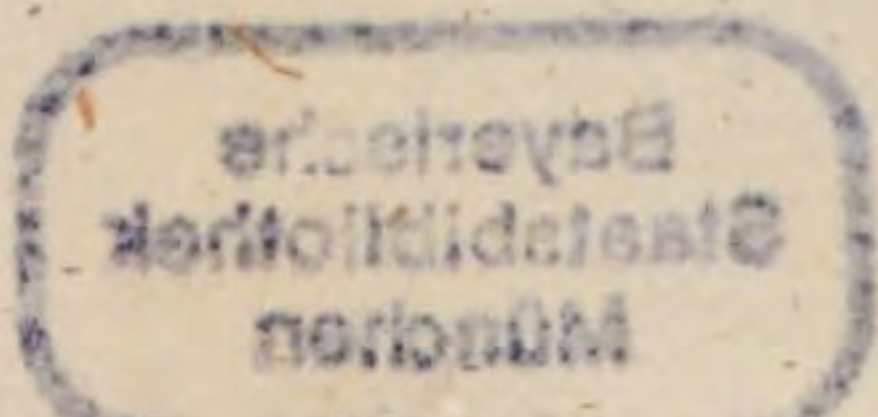
SHROPSHIRE.



## SHROPSHIRE.

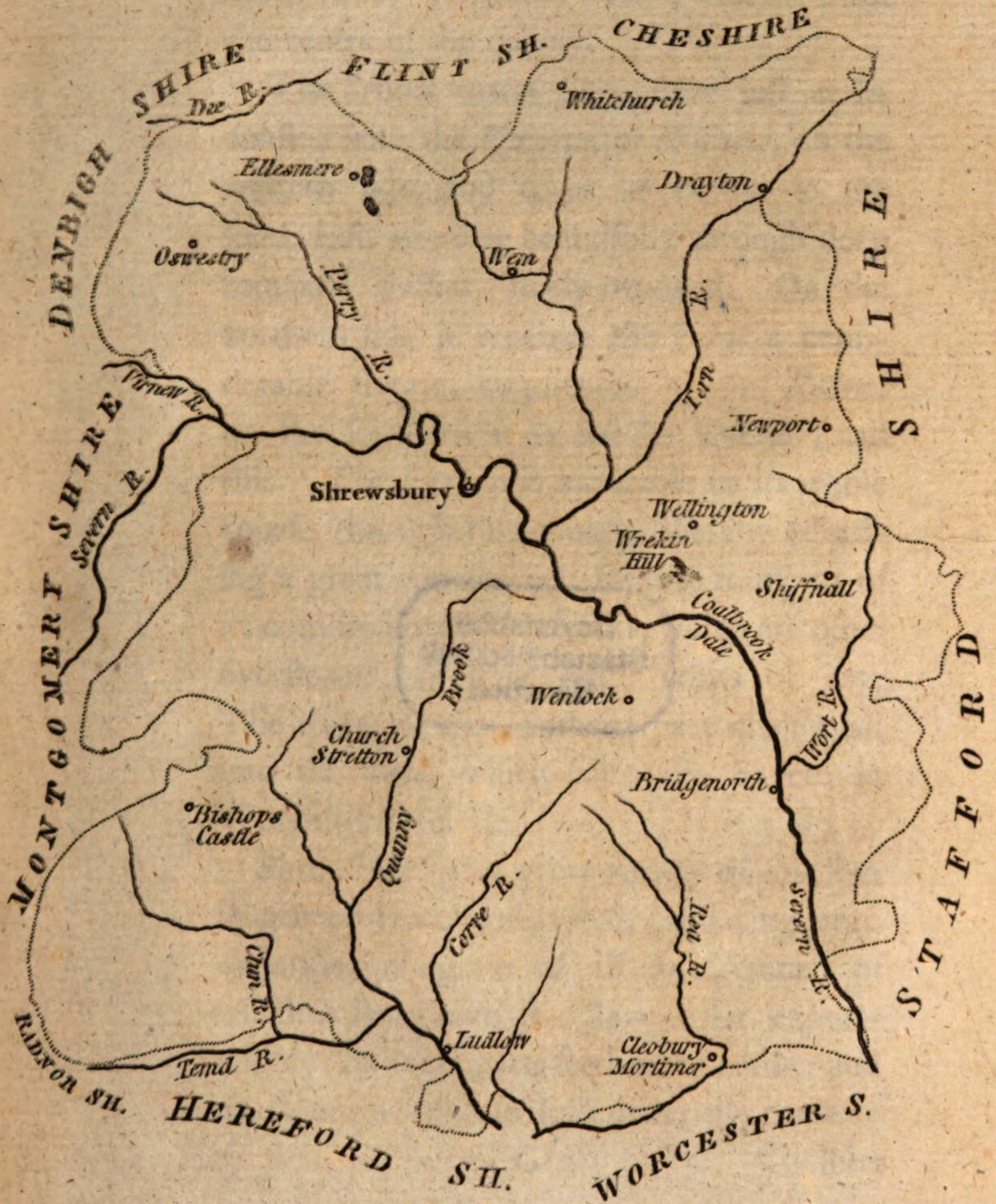
SHROPSHIRE, or the county of Salop, is bounded on the north by Cheshire, the detached part of Flintshire, and a corner of Denbighshire; on the west by the latter county, and those of Montgomery and Radnor; on the south by Herefordshire and Worcestershire; and on the east by Staffordshire. It is of a roundish figure, with many indentations and projections. Its greatest length is about fifty miles, and breadth forty.

Shropshire is divided into two nearly equal parts by the Severn. Of these the southern portion, which was anciently a part of Wales, partakes of the mountainous character of that region; especially the southwestern angle. In the northern portion there is a considerable part flat, though it is not without high hills, particularly on the borders of Wales. The noted mountain,  
the





# SHROPSHIRE.





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the *Wrekin*, is in this division, not far from the centre of the county.

The *Severn* enters Shropshire just at its conflux with the *Vyrnyw*, or *Wirnew*, on the western side, and takes its course to the south-east, winding beautifully through deep romantic vallies, finely wooded. On the northern side it receives the *Tern*, a considerable stream, augmented by the *Rodon*; on the southern it is fed by several small rills. The *Severn* is navigable in its whole course through this county, thereby affording a great convenience for the transport of its commodities. Its banks, which are often overflowed, produce large crops of hay. The rivers of the southern part chiefly fall into the *Tend*, which joins the *Severn* in Worcestershire.

Shropshire has a great variety of soil, but in general is well cultivated, producing large quantities of grain of all sorts, much of which is sent down the *Severn* for exportation. Its level parts feed many cattle; and much of the cheese sold under the name of



Cheshire is made in this county. The sheep of its hilly tracts afford a fine wool, which is employed in the manufactories of the west, there being none of any consequence in Shropshire. The neighbourhood of the Wrekin and Bridgenorth, and that of Clunn, in the south-western corner, are reckoned to yield wool equal to that of Lemster. Some hops are grown upon the Herefordshire border.

The mineral products of this county are considerable, consisting of lead, iron, limestone, freestone, pipe clay, and coals. The iron works of *Colebrook-Dale* on the banks of the Severn are supposed to be the most considerable in England. The neighbouring hills supply both ore and coal, as well as limestone, in great quantities; and every part of the process, from digging the ore to the last finish of the manufacture, is performed on the spot. “*Colebrook-Dale*” (says Mr. Young) is a winding glen, between two immense hills, which break into various forms, being all thickly covered



“vered and forming most beautiful sheets  
“of hanging woods. The noise of the  
“forges, mills, &c. with all their vast ma-  
“chinery; the flames bursting from the  
“furnaces, with the burning of coal, and  
“the smoke of the lime-kins; are altoge-  
“ther horribly sublime.” A bridge en-  
tirely made of cast iron, which has been  
lately thrown over the Severn, gives these  
scenes a still nearer resemblance to the ideas  
in romance. There is also in the Dale a  
remarkable spring of fossil tar, or petroleum,  
which has yielded a vast quantity of that  
substance, but it is now much diminished.  
A work for obtaining a similar kind of tar  
from the condensed smoke of pit coal has  
been erected in the Dale.

The capital of this county, *Shrewsbury*,  
beautifully situated in a peninsula formed by  
the Severn, is a very respectable ancient  
town, inhabited by many families of gentry,  
and carrying on no inconsiderable com-  
merce. It is the chief mart for a coarse  
kind of woollen cloth made in Montgo-  
meryshire,



meryshire, called Welsh-webs, which are bought up in the country and dressed here, whence they are sent for exportation principally to America and Flanders. Much of the Welsh flannel is also bought at Welshpool by the drapers of this place. Shrewsbury is famous for the making of excellent brawn, which is sent to various parts of the kingdom. A newly planned canal from hence to the Dee and Mersey, may be expected to increase its traffic. A large House of Industry established in this place is celebrated for its excellent management.

Close to this town was fought in 1400 the bloody battle between King Henry IV. and the malcontents under Henry Percy, surnamed Hotspur, in which the latter was defeated and slain.

*Bridgenorth* is a pretty considerable town, with one of the first fairs in the kingdom for hops, clover seed, and Welsh flannels.

At *Oswestry*, a market town in the northwest, considerable quantities of the Welsh woollens are sold.

*Ellesmere*



*Ellesmere* is situated upon an eminence, commanding a remarkably fine view. It takes its name from a large mere; and there are others in its neighbourhood.

*Ludlow*, on the border of Herefordshire, is celebrated for the remains of its magnificent castle. The wooded and romantic scenery around it suggested the descriptions in Milton's incomparable *Masque of Comus*, which was first represented in it, when inhabited by the Bridgewater family.



## HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE county of Hereford has to the north Shropshire; to the west the counties of Radnor and Brecknock, the latter separated by the Hatterel hills, or Black Mountain; to the south Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire, the former separated by the river Munno, the latter, in part, by the Wye; and to the east Worcestershire. It is of a circular form, but its circumference is made irregular by many windings and indentations. Its central length and breadth are each about thirty-six miles.

Herefordshire is one of the counties which most happily unite the rich and fertile with the picturesque and romantic. The poet Dyer's description of *Siluria*, of which it formed a considerable part, paints it in beautiful colours.

Pleasant Siluria, land of various views,  
Hills, rivers, woods, and lawns, and purple groves  
Pomaceous, mingled with the curling growth  
Of tendrils hops, that flaunt upon their poles.

FLEECE.

The



# HEREFORDSHIRE.





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The fertility and pleasantness of this county are greatly owing to the fine rivers by which it is watered. Of these the principal is the *Wye*, which, entering on the western side, almost crosses the county meandering to the south-east, when, turning directly south, it reaches the boundary of Gloucestershire, and then bending westward arrives at the borders of Monmouthshire. The romantic beauties of the *Wye*, which flows in a deep bed between lofty rocks clothed with hanging woods, and here and there crowned with ruined castles, have employed the descriptive powers of the pen and pencil, and frequently engage the curiosity of travellers.

The *Lug*, a considerable stream, rising in the north-west, on the confines of Radnor, after flowing across great part of this county, and receiving many rivulets from the north and east, falls into the *Wye* a little below Hereford, and compels it to take its southward direction.

The *Munno* or *Mynnnow*, already mentioned



tioned as forming the limit on the Monmouthshire border, springs from the Hatterel-hills; and, after receiving the *Doyer*, flowing out of a valley, called from its superior fertility the *Golden vale*, goes on to join the Wye at the town of Monmouth.

The northern extremity of the county is just crossed in two places by the *Teme*.

Two products render Herefordshire particularly famous—its cyder and its wool.

The apples producing the cyder grow in greater abundance here than in any other county, being plentiful even in the hedge rows. Of these are various kinds, yielding liquors of different strength and qualities. The Styer cyder is remarkable for a strength and body unusual to this liquor, and keeps very well.

The sheep of Herefordshire are small, affording a fine filky wool, in quality approaching to the Spanish. The *Lemster* wool has long been famous, as well as that from the district called *Irchinfield*, near Ross. Dyer, speaking of the light dry soils fittest for the breeding



breeding of sheep, particularizes more places in this county than in any other. The lines are very happily descriptive of the several situations.

———— Such too the leas  
And ruddy tilth which spiry *Ross* beholds,  
From a green hillock, o'er her lofty elms;  
And *Lemster's* brooky tract, and airy *Croft*,  
And such Harleian *Eyewood's* swelling turf,  
Waved as the billows of a rolling sea;  
And *Shobden* for its lofty terrace fam'd,  
Which, from a mountain's ridge, elate o'er woods,  
And girt with all Siluria, sees around  
Regions on regions blended in the clouds.

## FLEECE.

The grain of this fruitful county is not less excellent than its other products. The wheat of its vales, and barley of its high grounds, are equal to the best in England. The proportion of land under the plough is estimated at two thirds of the whole. Many hops are grown, especially in the woodland parts. The waste ground is a small portion of the county. The principal part of it lies at the foot of the Black Mountain.

As



As the employments of agriculture are so successfully followed here, it cannot be expected that the inhabitants should turn their industry to manufactures. The towns of Herefordshire are therefore inconsiderable.

Its capital, the city of *Hereford*, is an ancient decayed place, with a large cathedral in danger of speedy ruin. It has a manufacture of gloves.

*Ross* is chiefly remarkable for its pleasant situation, and for the appellation it has given of *the Man of Ross* to one of its townsmen, Mr. John Kyrle, whose benevolence and public spirit Pope has so finely celebrated. It is the centre of the principal barley country.

*Leominster*, or *Lemster*, has already been mentioned for its wool, and its market is also of note for the finest wheat; as *Weobly* in its neighbourhood is for malt liquor.

*Ledbury*, near the Malvern hills, has a share in the clothing trade.

MONMOUTH.



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# MONMOUTHSHIRE.





## MONMOUTHSHIRE.

MONMOUTHSHIRE has to the north the counties of Hereford and Brecknock; to the west the latter, and that of Glamorgan; to the south the Bristol channel; and to the east Gloucestershire. Its boundaries are in great part rivers; the Wye and Mynnow to the east and north-east, and the Rhyney, or Rumney, to the west. Its greatest length is about twenty-four miles, and breadth somewhat less.

This was formerly reckoned one of the Welsh counties; and, from the names of its towns and villages, its mountainous rugged surface, as well as its situation beyond a large river, the Wye, which seems to form a natural boundary between England and Wales in this part, it certainly partakes most of the character of the latter country, though it is comprehended in the civil division of the former.



The river Uſk divides Monmouthſhire into two unequal portions, of which the eaſtern, or largeſt, is a tract upon the whole fertile in corn and paſture, and well wooded. It abounds in liſtſtone, which is burnt on the ſpot for the general manure of the country. The ſmaller weſtern part is mountainous, and, in great part, unfavourable for cultivation, whence it is devoted to the feeding of ſheep. It has ſeveral long narrow vallies, watered by ſtreams which flow into the Briſtol channel.

The principal towns of this county are ſituated upon the banks of the Wye and Uſk.

*Monmouth*, the county town, lies in an angle between the Wye and Mynnow. It is large and handſome, and carries on a trade with Briſtol by means of the Wye, which ſerves for the exportation of the products of the country, and the importation of foreign articles. Here was born the warlike king Henry V. who bore the name of Henry of Monmouth.



Lower down the Wye the remains of *Tintern-abbey*, and the castle of *Chepstow*, form objects highly picturesque, amid the wild beauties of this tract. Near Tintern are large iron works, at which ore is smelted, brought chiefly from Furness in Lancashire. The town of *Chepstow* has a tolerable port, at which the tide, rushing up from the broad mouth of the Severn, rises to a very extraordinary height. *Chepstow* carries on a considerable trade with the circumjacent country.

On the *Usk* are three towns of great antiquity, though now of little consequence; *Abergavenny*, *Caerwyske*, or *Usk*, and *Caerleon*. The first of these has a traffic in flannels.

*Newport*, near the mouth of the river, has a pretty good harbour, and possesses some trade.

Both the *Usk* and the *Wye* are well stocked with fish, particularly fine salmon.

The *Avon*, a river which empties itself into the *Usk* at *Caerleon*, turns several mills  
for



for the working of iron plates, which are used in a manufactory of japanned ware (now on the decline) at *Ponty-pool*, on its banks.

Other places in this county worth noticing are, the narrow sequestered *Vale of Erias*, beneath the Hatterel-hills, formerly the well-adapted site of a monastery; and the ruins of *Ragland-castle*, a fortress of great strength, so late as the time of Charles I. in whose favour it held out, under the Marquis of Worcester, to the very end of the civil wars.



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# NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.





## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THIS county, bounded on the north by Yorkshire and Lincolnshire; on the east by the latter county; on the south by Leicestershire; and on the west by Derbyshire; is of the figure of a long oval, with its narrowest end towards the north. Its greatest length is near fifty miles; its greatest breadth above twenty. Being happily situated between the mountainous country of Derbyshire on the one hand and the flat of Lincolnshire on the other, it enjoys such a temperature of soil and climate, as to render it one of the most fertile and agreeable counties in England: an evidence of which is the uncommon number of seats of the first nobility contained in it.

The glory of this county is its noble river the *Trent*; which, after crossing the counties of Stafford and Derby, enters Nottinghamshire at its south-western extremity, and

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thence,



thence, crossing obliquely to the east, coasts along its whole eastern side, becoming towards the northern part the boundary betwixt this county and that of Lincoln. During this whole course, the Trent is a large navigable river, imparting fertility to the wide tract of meadows through which it flows, and affording a ready conveyance for the corn and other products of the county. Its chief inconvenience is that of being subject to frequent and great floods.

From the middle and north-western parts of this county several streams unite to form the *Idle*, a river which joins the Trent at the north-eastern angle of Nottinghamshire. The Chesterfield canal crosses the northern extremity of the county, and enters the Trent near the mouth of the Idle.

As to soil and face of country, Nottinghamshire may be divided into three or four parallel districts, pretty distinct from each other. A narrow stripe on the Derbyshire border, stretching as far south as opposite to Nottingham, is the limestone and coal district.



tract. This is chiefly arable, and contains several woods. The next is a much broader stripe, running quite up to the northern extremity of the county, composed chiefly of sand and gravel. This includes the whole of the ancient royal forest of *Sherwood*, popularly known as the scene of many fabulous adventures of the noted outlaw Robin Hood and his companions. Much of this lies in a waste state, with but small remains of the woods with which it was formerly covered. A considerable quantity of the land has however been enclosed and brought into cultivation, and several large parks have been taken out of it by grants from the crown, which are brought into tillage or covered with flourishing plantations. The turnip husbandry has been introduced with great success upon the forest enclosures, and a large quantity of barley and other grain is produced. Some hops are grown in this district; and an article for dying yellow, called weld, or dyer's weed. The next parallel tract, nearly of the same extent, is



the clay district, reaching from the former quite to the banks of the Trent at the northern end of the county, but leaving an intermediate space at the middle and southern point. A patch of the clay district also appears beyond the Trent at the very southern extremity of the county. Of this a great part is arable, intermixed with some pasture and woods. Many hops are grown about Redford; and more pigeons are supposed to be kept in this district than any where besides in England. The Trent bank land forms another district, spreading on each side the river from its entrance out of Leicestershire to the part where it forms the Lincolnshire boundary. The banks of the Soar may also be comprehended in this division. The arable of this district, which is the smaller proportion, yields remarkably fine oats. The pasture is chiefly devoted to feeding, though there are some large dairies on the south bank. The beautiful vale of Belvoir forms another tract, lying beyond the south-east Trent bank to the borders



borders of Leicestershire and Lincolnshire. It is a rich loamy soil, cultivated with a mixture of arable and pasture.

Nottinghamshire has of old been famous for its *bread* and *beer*; and to this day its chief products and exports are corn and malt. It is also of no small consequence as a manufacturing county; and its fabrics are at present in a thriving and increasing state. These we shall now proceed to mention.

*Nottingham*, the county-town, beautifully situated on a rocky eminence above the meadows bordering the Trent, crowned with its stately castle, is a large, populous, and handsome town, distinguished by its spacious market place, and noted as one of the principal seats of the stocking manufacture. The goods made here are chiefly of the finer kinds, as those of silk and cotton; and the trade is extended to the neighbourhood round, and some of the more distant towns. As the articles of the Nottinghamshire manufactures are valuable in proportion to their bulk, they are chiefly conveyed to the



different ports and places of consumption by land. A considerable share of them is exported to various parts of Europe, America, and the West Indies. The cotton for this manufacture is spun by machinery worked by water in this county and in Derbyshire. Nottingham has also a manufactory of coarse earthen ware. At this town king Charles first set up his standard at the commencement of the unfortunate civil wars which terminated in his destruction and that of the constitution.

*Mansfield*, on the borders of Sherwood-forest, has a great trade in corn and malt, and participates in the stocking manufacture.

*Sutton*, in its neighbourhood, has also a thriving manufactory of the same kind, which extends to a greater variety of articles than any other in the kingdom; such as milled woollen caps, for the Canadian and other markets, and pieces for waistcoats, &c. of fancy patterns, woven in the stocking frame, which are exported to France, Germany, and other parts of Europe.

*Newark* is a considerable and very neat market



market town near the Trent. Here, in the midst of troubles which his own folly and baseness had excited, died the inglorious king John. The story of his being poisoned is now rejected by the best historians. Here, too, the equally unfortunate king Charles I. after his defeat at Naseby, put himself into the hands of the Scotch army, then besieging this town, by whom he was afterwards given up to his worst enemies.

At *Stoke*, in the neighbourhood of Newark, John de la Pole, earl of Lincoln, rebelling against Henry VII. in favour of the impostor Simnel, was routed and slain with his whole party in the year 1487.

*Beacon-hill*, also near Newark, is noted for some of the most considerable quarries in England of gypsum, or plaster-stone. Much of it is exported from Gainsborough to London and other places.

Near *Worksop* liquorice was formerly cultivated. Its vicinity is peculiarly remarkable for the number of seats of the first nobility.



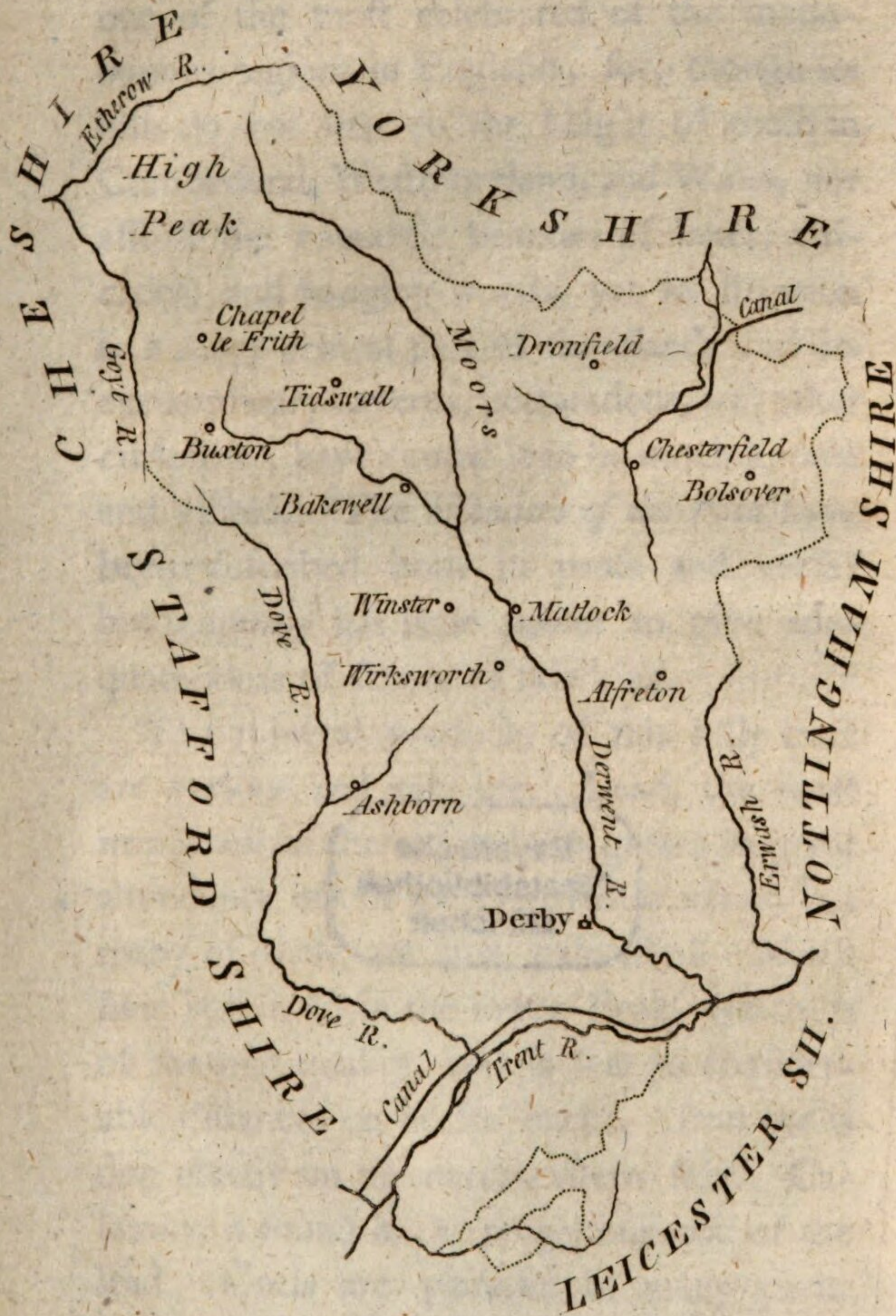
## DERBYSHIRE.

THE boundaries of this county are, on the north, a small part of Cheshire and Yorkshire; on the east Nottinghamshire; on the south, Leicestershire, a single point of Warwickshire, and Staffordshire; and on the west this last county and Cheshire. The rivers Mersey, Goyt, and Dove, form almost the whole of its western limits from north to south. The general figure of this county is triangular, gradually growing narrower to the south, where it ends in a point. The extreme length is fifty miles; the breadth at the northern extremity about thirty-eight.

In Derbyshire terminates the most conspicuous part of the middle chain of hills out of the north; and great part of the county is occupied by it, particularly the northern and western parts. The *Peak*, comprehending its north-western angle, is  
one



# DERBYSHIRE.





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one of the most celebrated of the mountainous regions in England; for, though its hills do not soar to the height of those in Cumberland, Westmoreland, and Wales, nor afford the romantic beauties of lakes, cascades, and hanging woods, yet its situation in a more central part of the island, and its extraordinary caverns, perforations, and other curiosities, have caused it to be much known and visited. The *Wonders of the Peak* have been described both in prose and verse; but language has little power to give adequate ideas of scenes of this kind.

The mineral products of this hilly tract are various and valuable. Lead, the most important of them, has been gotten in great abundance out of the Derbyshire mines, but many of these are now exhausted. Much lime is burned in the lower Peak, which is of the best quality, and is sent to considerable distances on horses' backs. Iron ore is dug chiefly on the north-eastern side. Calamine is found in the neighbourhood of the lead. Coals are plentiful in many parts,  
but



but chiefly on the eastern side from north to south. Marble is frequent in the hills; and some beautiful kinds of it are polished at the works at *Ashford*. The Derbyshire spars are uncommonly elegant, and are wrought into a variety of ornamental articles. The numerous quarries yield stone for various purposes; among which is plenty of plaster-stone, or gypsum, got at *Chelaston*, south of Derby.

The southern part of the county and up to the middle of it, especially on the eastern side, is, in general, a rich and well cultivated country, divided between arable and pasture. The western side, on the banks of the Dove, is chiefly devoted to pasture; and much cheese, made in these parts, is sent to London and other places. A singular object of culture in some parts of the county is that of camomile flowers, which are chiefly sold to the London druggists.

On the hills and open moors of the Peak many horned cattle are bred; and in the summer large herds of young cattle are driven



driven hither to feed from the neighbouring counties. A small breed of sheep are kept in great numbers in the hilly country.

The principal river of Derbyshire is the *Derwent*, which, rising in the high Peak, flows directly through the midst of the county, dividing it into two nearly equal portions; and, after passing Derby, empties itself into the Trent on the borders of Leicestershire.

The *Dove* holds a course parallel to the *Derwent*, between Staffordshire and Derbyshire, and also terminates in the Trent.

The *Trent* itself just crosses the southern angle of Derbyshire, and, for a short space, makes its separation from the counties of Leicester and Nottingham. On the borders of the last it is joined by the *Erewash*, a rivulet which forms a considerable share of the eastern limit. The banks of the Trent are a tract of very fine meadows. Parallel to the course of this river runs the canal, making a junction between it and the Mersey, which joins the Trent at Wilden. A  
canal



spreading in this county; and a large supply of materials is also sent from them to the Lancashire manufactories. A canal is lately carried from hence to join the Erewash navigation.

In that part of the Peak which borders on Yorkshire, some woollen cloth is made; and in the neighbourhood of Sheffield the cutlery business extends into Derbyshire. The hosiery trade is carried on extensively on the Nottinghamshire border, and also at Litton near Tideswell.

Several mineral waters are found in the hilly parts of Derbyshire. Of these the most celebrated are the warm springs of *Buxton*, the temperature of which, being lower than of those at Bath, is extremely agreeable for bathing; and they have been found of great use in various cases, especially of the rheumatic kind. This has occasioned a great resort of company, and a number of large and commodious buildings, in a place otherwise the most dreary and unpleasant that can be conceived. A spacious crescent



for lodging rooms was erected some years since by the duke of Devonshire, in a style of great magnificence and expence.

*Matlock*, on the Derwent, is also much frequented, partly on account of its bath (which is somewhat warmer than the common temperature), but still more on account of the uncommon beauties of its situation.

*Kedleston* near Derby has a sulphureous water in considerable reputation for scorbutic disorders and ulcers. At *Quarndon*, in its neighbourhood, is a fine chalybeat spring.



## STAFFORDSHIRE.

THIS is a long and narrow tract of country ending in a point at the northern and southern extremities, having to the west the counties of Chester and Salop; to the east those of Derby and Warwick; and to the south Worcestershire. The rivers Dove and Trent form a natural boundary on the Derbyshire side; on the other sides it has no remarkable limits. In length it extends about fifty-five miles; its extreme breadth does not exceed twenty-four.

The northern part of Staffordshire, called the *Moorlands*, is a wild hilly country, resembling the adjacent Derbyshire. Its elevation may be judged of from the number of streams which take their rise in it, some of which run into opposite seas. Of these, the principal is the *Trent*, which, issuing from three several springs between Congleton and Leek, flows southwards through the  
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canal also runs parallel to the Erewash for some miles through several collieries, and terminates in the Trent not far from the former.

The county town, *Derby*, is of considerable size, handsome, and well inhabited. It is particularly noted for its large silk-mill, the first of the kind erected in England, and taken from an Italian model. Its operations are to wind, double, and twist the silk, so as to render it fit for weaving. It has employed many hands in the town, but the work is now on the decline. Derby also possesses a considerable manufactory of silk, cotton, and fine worsted stockings; and has a fabric of porcelain, said to be equal or superior in quality to any in the kingdom. Several hands are employed in the lapidary and jewellery branches, and the work of this kind executed here is in high estimation. Derbyshire and foreign marbles are also wrought here into a variety of ornamental articles. The malting trade is likewise considerable in this town. The Derwent is navigable from hence to the Trent.

*Chesterfield*



*Chesterfield* is the next considerable trading town in this county. It has a manufactory of worsted and cotton stockings; and also of carpets, but of small extent. Many shoes for the London market are made here. Four potteries, chiefly for brown ware, are established here; and near the town are large iron founderies, the ore and coal for the supply of which are dug in the neighbourhood. Large quantities of coals and lead are sent from Chesterfield by the new canal cut from this town to the Trent, which it joins below Gainsborough. This conveyance also serves for the iron and other bulky goods.

*Ashborn*, on the Dove, a market town, is noted for its fairs for cattle. In its neighbourhood is one of the most romantic spots in the county, *Dove-Dale*, where that river runs in a chasm between precipitous rocks.

At *Cromford*, on the Derwent, some of the greatest of the new cotton-mills have been erected by the late Sir Richard Arkwright, to whom this capital improvement of mechanism is due. By their means the branches of the cotton manufacture are now spreading



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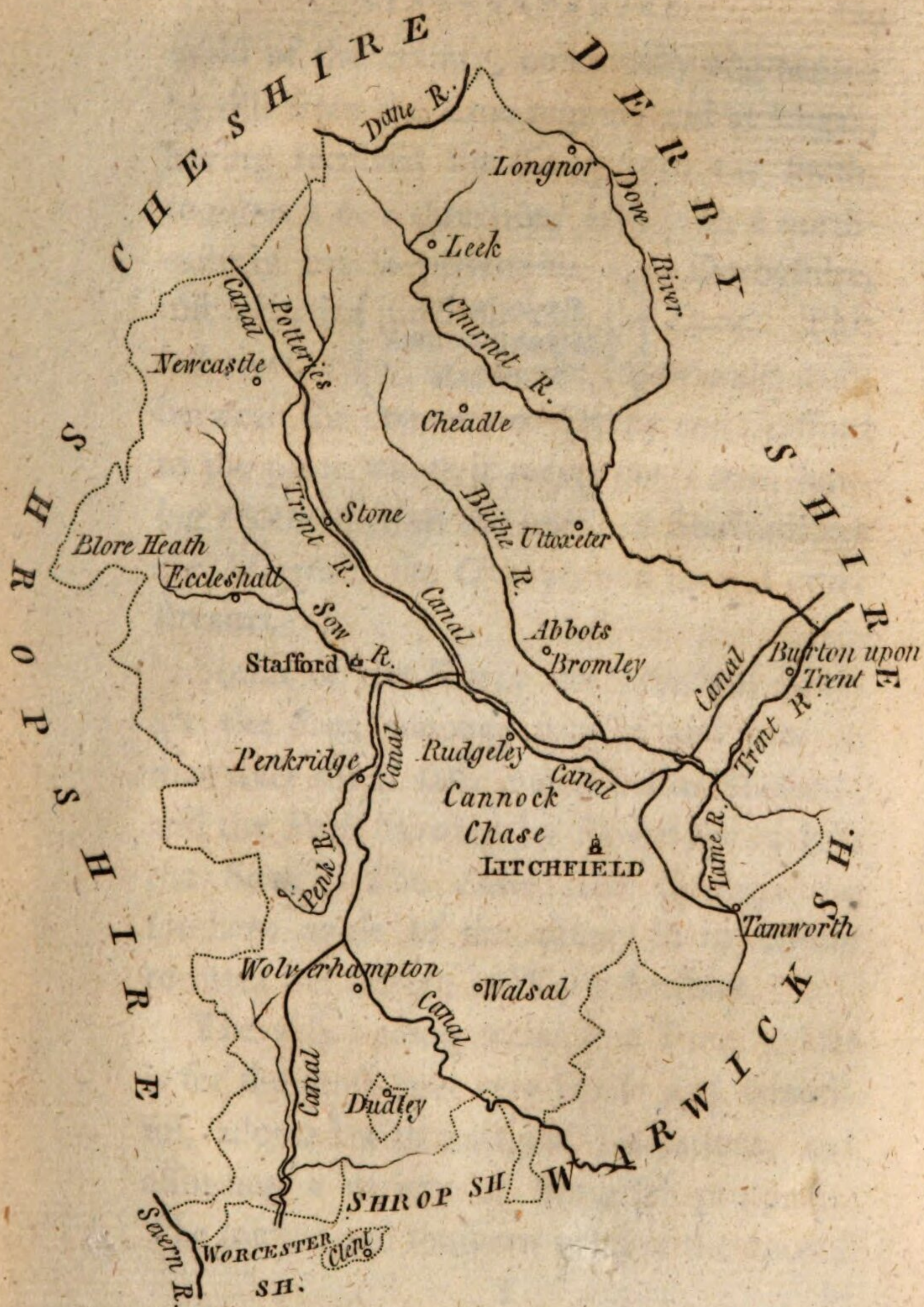
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# STAFFORDSHIRE.





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midst of the county, continually augmented by rills from the same region; and at length, having received the *Tame* from the south, acquires a new direction, and, with a north-easterly course penetrates into Derbyshire, just after its junction with the *Dove*. This last river, rising also in the Moorlands, runs between the counties of Derby and Stafford to the place where it meets the Trent, having received from the north of Staffordshire the *Manyfold*, the *Churnet*, and several other streams.

South of the Trent the principal rivers are the *Sow*, running parallel and near to that river till it falls into it below Stafford; and the *Penk*, flowing by Penkridge to join the *Sow*. The *Stour* runs through the southern angle of the county in its course to meet the Severn in Worcestershire.

The valley along which the Trent glides is for the most part very fertile and beautiful, adorned with seats and plantations, and affording a variety of beautiful prospects. The middle and southern parts of the county

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in general are agreeably diversified with wood, pasture, and arable. The great forest of *Cank* or *Cannock*, in the centre, once covered with oaks, is now and has long been a wide naked tract. At the southern extremity the *Clent-hills*, *Hagley*, and its neighbourhood, are well known for the more romantic beauties which they possess. In this tract the counties of Stafford, Worcester, and Salop, are strangely intermixed.

Coal is abundant in various parts of Staffordshire; particularly in the moorlands and the neighbourhood of Newcastle; and also about Wolverhampton, at Bliston and Wednesbury, whence Birmingham is chiefly supplied with its fuel. The northern and southern parts also contain much iron ore.

This county has long been noted, and is now particularly famous, for its potteries; the chief seat of which is near Newcastle, in a line of villages extending about ten miles. The neighbourhood affords abundance of the most bulky materials for this business, viz. fire-clay and coals; but their  
finer



finer clays are brought from Purbeck in Dorsetshire, and other parts of that coast; and flints from the chalk pits near Gravesend, and some from Wales and Ireland. For the conveyance of these they have the benefit of water-carriage, either from Hull and Gainsborough, by means of the Trent, which communicates with the southern extremity of the grand Staffordshire canal; or from Liverpool, by means of the Mersey, and the duke of Bridgewater's navigation, to the northern extremity of the same canal. The manufactured goods are sent away by the same conveyances. The perfection to which this manufacture has been brought, and the great elegance of the useful and ornamental articles of which it consists, have rendered it a very important object of commerce, both foreign and domestic.

Some iron works are established in the neighbourhood of Newcastle.

The southern extremity of the county is enlivened by various branches of the hardware manufacture, in which it participates



with the neighbouring Birmingham. *Walsall*, *Dudley*, and *Wolverhampton*, are concerned in this trade. The latter is a considerable town, which has long been famous for its lock manufactory, and now makes a great quantity of the japanned ware, as well as the heavier kinds of hardware.

The trade of this county is in a peculiar manner assisted by the grand system of canal navigation, of which it is, as it were, the centre, and which is carried through its whole length. The *grand trunk*, as it has been ingeniously termed, enters the north of the county from Cheshire, and, after piercing Harecastle-hill, by a subterraneous passage of a mile and a half in length, passes through the potteries, and thence southwards across the Trent almost to Litchfield; from whence it turns short over the Trent again, and over the Dove, in its way to mix with the Trent at Wilden-ferry. From the neighbourhood of Stafford it sends off a branch which runs directly southwards by Penkridge, and near Wolverhampton, to join the  
Severn



Severn near Kidderminster. With this a canal from Birmingham and another from Stourbridge communicate. Thus the great ports of Bristol, Liverpool, and Hull, are all accessible to the various products and manufactures of Staffordshire.

*Stafford*, the county town, is of moderate size, and has little concern with trade.

The same may be said of *Litchfield*, which unites with Coventry in forming a bishop's see. It is a neat and well built place, and has a fine cathedral.

*Burton* upon the Trent is well known for the excellence of its malt liquor, great quantities of which are sent down the river (which is navigable so far) to Hull, and exported to other parts of the kingdom and abroad.

*Newcastle*, distinguished by the name of *under Line*, has a large manufactory of hats, both fine and coarse. It also makes quantities of shoes.

*Leek*, in the Moorlands, has a share in the silk and mohair manufactures, comprising  
I 3 buttons,



buttons, ferrets, handkerchiefs, twists, sewing silks, &c.

On the western border of the county near Drayton, is *Blore-beath*, where the party of York, under the earl of Salisbury, defeated the Lancastrians commanded by lord Audley. Queen Margaret beheld the battle from a neighbouring steeple.

*Hopton-beath*, near Stafford, was the scene of a hot skirmish in the civil wars of Charles I, in which the royalists gained the advantage, though with the loss of their commander, the earl of Northampton.



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# LEICESTERSHIRE.





## LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE county of Leicester is bounded on the north by Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, on the west by the latter county and Warwickshire, on the south by Northamptonshire, and on the east by the counties of Rutland and Lincoln. Its limits are but in a few places marked by nature. To the north the Soar and Trent form part of its boundary. The famous Roman road called Watling-street, and the small river Ankor, are its limits on the Warwickshire side; and the rivers Avon and Welland separate it from Northamptonshire. Its shape has been not unaptly compared to that of a shoulder of mutton with the shank cut off. Its greatest length is about thirty-five miles, and its greatest breadth near forty-five.

The principal river of Leicestershire is the *Soar*, which, rising in the south-western border, runs to Leicester, after which it



receives the *Wreke* from the north-east, and then turns to Mount-soar-hill and Loughborough, watering in its course meadows of uncommon beauty and fertility, till it falls into the Trent not far from Cavendish-bridge.

The soil of this county is various, but for the most part is strong and stiff, composed of clay and marl: hence it affords great quantities of rich grazing land, and is peculiarly fitted for the culture of beans; for which it is proverbially noted. The proportion of pasture and meadow land through the whole county much exceeds that of arable. There are few open fields now left; and the quantity of waste ground is proportionally very small. The surface is in most parts varied and uneven. Towards the north-west the *Bardon-hills* rise to a considerable height; and in their neighbourhood lies *Charnwood* or *Charley-forest*, a rough and open tract. Further to the north-west are valuable coal mines, which supply the country round to a great distance.

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The north-eastern part feeds great numbers of sheep, a principal article of the wealth of its inhabitants. The Leicestershire sheep are of very large size, without horns, and clothed with thick long flakes of soft wool, particularly fit for the worsted manufactures. Of these the *Poet of the Fleece* thus speaks :

Need we the level greens of Lincoln note,  
Or rich Leicestria's marly plains, for length  
Of whitest locks, and magnitude of fleece  
Peculiar ; envy of the neighb'ring realms.

DYER.

The eastern and south-eastern part of the county is a rich grazing tract, which breeds numbers of cattle of large size, to supply the London and other markets. This county, indeed, has long been famous for its large black horses and horned cattle, as well as its sheep ; and its reputation has lately been much extended by the great skill and attention of *Mr. Bakewell*, at *Disbley*, near *Loughborough*, who has bred every species of domestic quadruped to the utmost perfection



fection of form and size. He has, indeed, as it were created new breeds of these animals, in which, with perfect symmetry of shape, he has united the greatest quantity of flesh with the smallest possible proportion of bone and offal. His breed of sheep, called the new Leicester, has in great measure taken place of the old breed, and is dispersed through most counties in the kingdom.

Much cheese is made in the western side of the county about *Leicester-forest*, and in some other parts. The rich kind called Stilton is made in the villages round *Melton Mowbray*.

This is so much of a farming country, that manufactures have not made much progress in it, except one, connected with its great product of wool, the stocking trade. The chief seat of this is at the county-town,

*Leicester*, a place of great antiquity, but much fallen off from its former magnitude and importance. It suffered much in the various civil commotions of this kingdom; and in those under Charles I. was stormed  
by



by the royalists with considerable slaughter. It is still a populous, but by no means a handsome, town. The combing and spinning of wool into worsted, and manufacturing it into stockings and other hosiery articles, is the chief business of Leicester and its neighbourhood. The goods are chiefly of the coarse kinds, and are partly taken off by home consumption, partly exported. They are conveyed away by land carriage. In these manufactures the Leicestershire wool is in part consumed: the remainder is sent into Yorkshire for making woollen stuffs. The trade of Leicester was long nearly stationary, owing to the want of that spirit of improvement which has so much advanced many other trading places; but of late years a favourable change has taken place in this respect. The benefits of water-communication have lately been extended to it, by making its river navigable, with the assistance of canals, to the Trent.

In the meadows near this town are the ruins of an abbey, at which that great and ambitious



ambitious minister Cardinal Wolsey ended his life, under the pressure of sickness and disgrace, as it is most pathetically described by Shakespeare.

*Hinkley* is a thriving town, which has been greatly increased of late years by the hosiery business.

*Loughborough* participates in the same trade. It has the advantage of a canal to the Trent.

*Lutterworth*, a small market town, is memorable for having been the residence of the great English reformer Wickliffe, who diffused his opinions widely in these parts.

*Melton-Mowbray* has a great market for cattle. Its river is made navigable to its junction with the Soar.

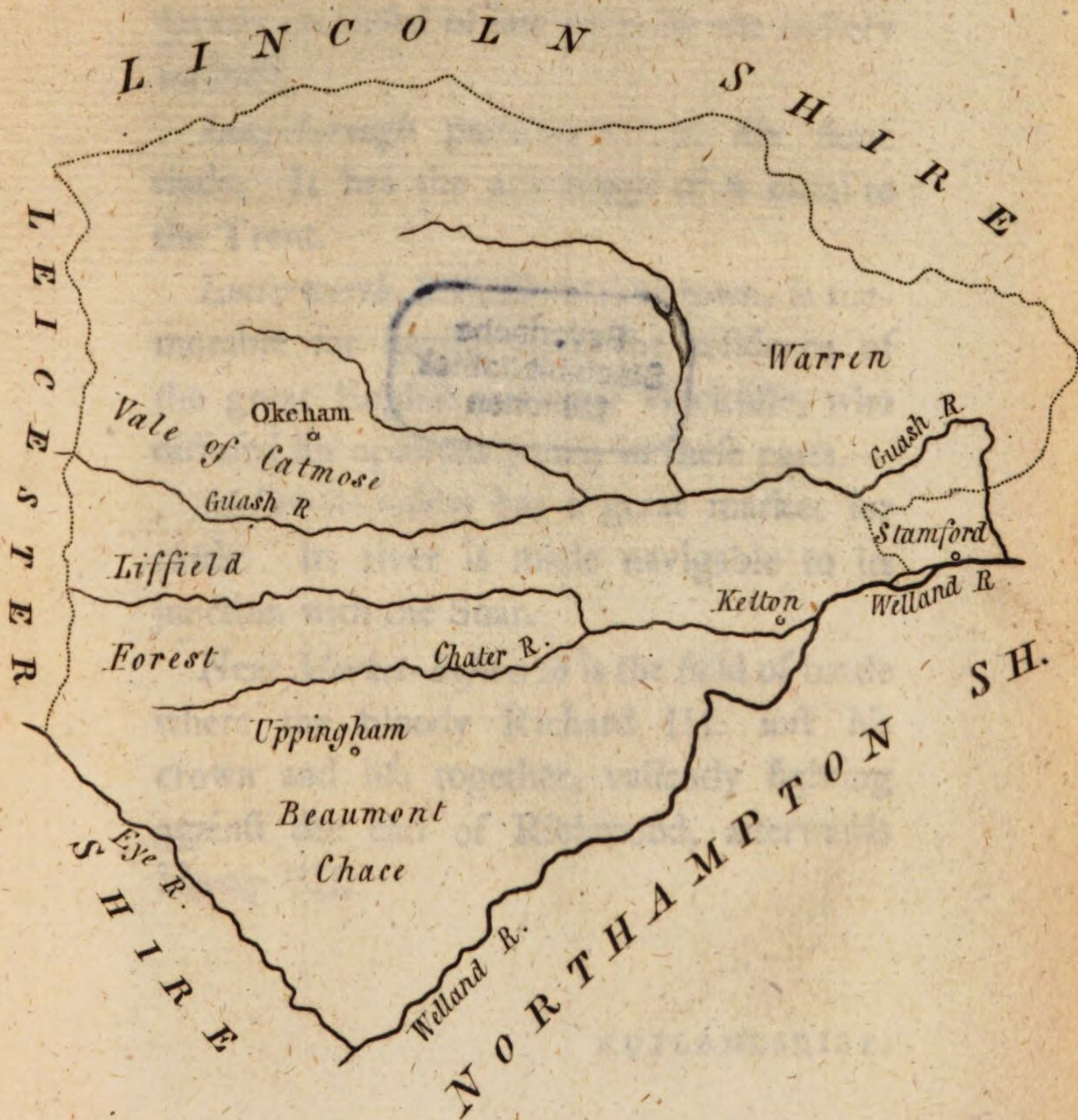
Near *Market-Bosworth* is the field of battle where the bloody Richard III. lost his crown and life together, valiantly fighting against the earl of Richmond, afterwards Henry VII.



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# RUTLAND SHIRE.





## RUTLANDSHIRE.

THIS small county, the least in England, encircled by the counties of Lincoln, Leicester, and Northampton, and seeming as if it were cut out of the two former, is of a roundish figure; in length fourteen or fifteen miles, and in breadth ten or twelve. It is supposed to have received its name from the red colour of the soil, which, in some parts, is a sort of ruddle, staining the fleeces of the sheep.

Rutland is blest with a pure air and a fertile soil, and is beautifully varied in its surface with gentle swells and depressions. The rising grounds run east and west with vallies intervening about half a mile wide. It abounds in clear soft springs, gushing from the sides of the hills. The soil varies, but is generally fertile. That of the east and south-east parts is mostly shallow, upon a limestone rock; the other parts are a strong



strong loam with red earth, or a clay. The products of Rutland are chiefly corn and sheep. Some of the finest feed-wheat in the kingdom is grown in its fields; and its fitness for sheep is particularly noted by the poet Dyer, when enumerating the most favourable spots for this animal:

————— such the clover'd lawns  
And funny mounts of beauteous Normanton,  
Health's cheerful haunt, and the selected walk  
Of Heathcote's leisure.

FLEECE.

The more ancient poet Drayton, celebrates this county as containing in its small compass three objects of great beauty and utility.

Small shire that can produce to thy proportion good  
One vale of special name, one forest, and one flood.

POLYOLBION.

The vale is that rich one of *Catmose*, running from the western side to the centre of the county, and comprehending the county-town, Okeham. It is crossed by the little  
6 river



river *Guash* or *Wash*, which, rising in Leicestershire, winds through the midst of Rutlandshire, and joins the *Welland* a little below Stamford. This latter river washes the south-eastern side of the county, separating it from Northamptonshire.

The south-western part was formerly entirely occupied by the forest of *Liffield*, part of which still remains in its original state, and is stocked with deer.

Two market towns are all that this little province possesses, *Okeham* and *Uppingham*; the former the county-town; but the latter reckoned to have the best market. Neither of them is considerable for trade or populousness.

This county has no manufacture of consequence.

At *Ketton*, near Stamford, are large quarries of limestone, which supply the county round with that article.



## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE county of Northampton, lying obliquely across the middle of England, is in contact with more surrounding ones than any other in the kingdom. To the north and north-west it has the counties of Lincoln, Rutland, and Leicester; from the two former and part of the latter of which it is separated by the river Welland; to the west it has Warwickshire; to the south Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire; to the east Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire, with a small point of Cambridgeshire. The position of this county is from south-west to north-east, and it stretches in this direction the length of sixty miles. Its greatest breadth is only about twenty miles, and it goes on narrowing as it proceeds northwards.

Northamptonshire is in a manner proverbially regarded as a fine and pleasant county, which opinion is confirmed by the

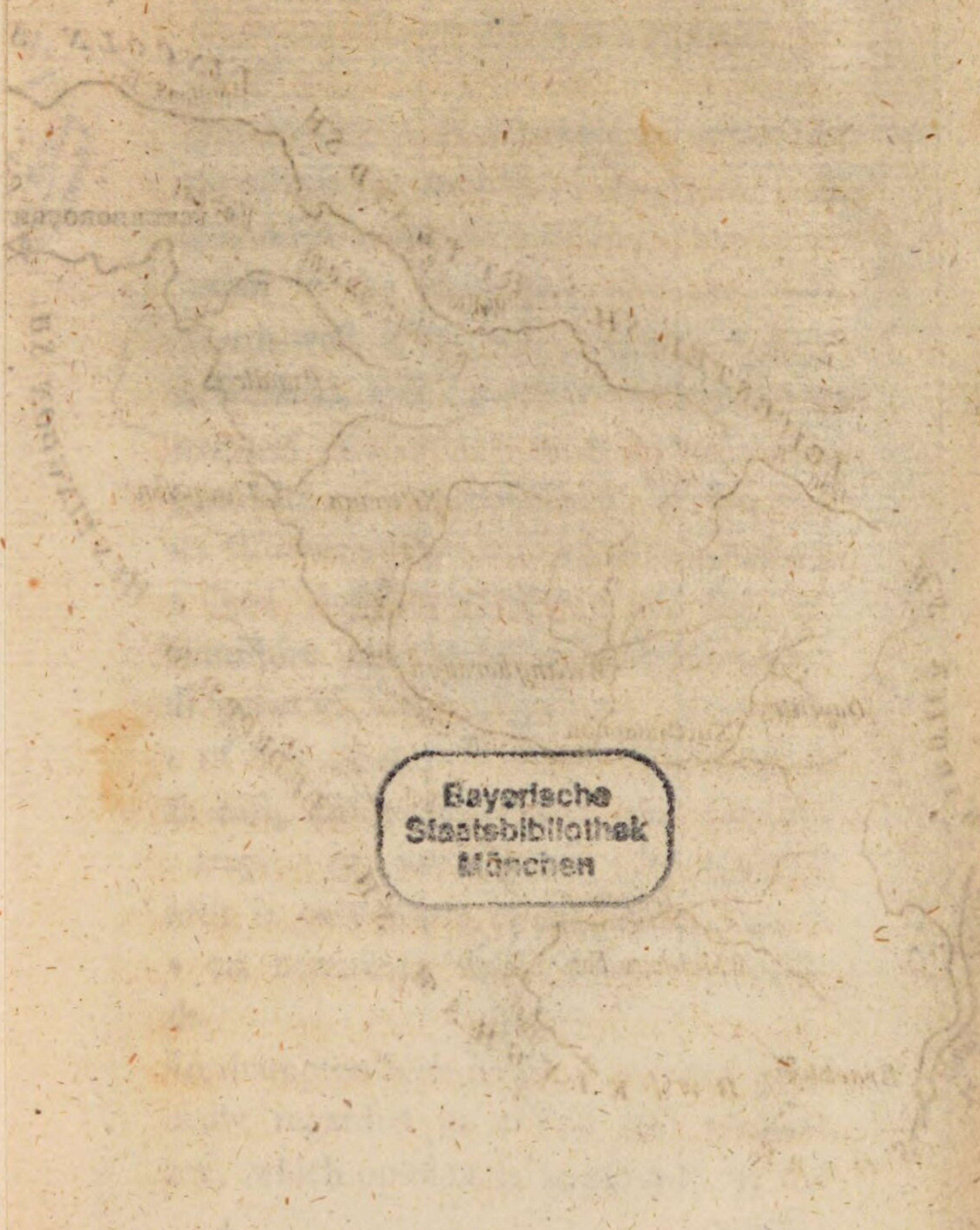


# NORTHAMPTONSH





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number of noblemen's and gentlemen's seats contained in it. Its greatest defect is the scarcity of fuel, a necessary of life but scantily supplied by its woods, which, like those in all other parts of the kingdom, have been much diminished by agriculture. Yet it still possesses some not inconsiderable remains of its old forests, particularly those of *Rockingham* in the north-west, and of *Salcey* and *Whittlebury* in the south. In this last, that fiercest of British animals of prey, the wild cat, is still found. Many smaller woods are interspersed throughout the county.

The highest ground in Northamptonshire is in the neighbourhood of *Daventry*, where the *Nen* and *Cherwell*, which flow into the eastern sea, and the *Leam*, which flows into the western, rise within a small compass. A little further northwards the *Avon* and *Welland*, running into opposite seas, spring near each other. About *Towcester*, in the south, the country is also hilly, and the soil intermixed with clay and a sort of coarse grit-stone.

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The principal river of Northamptonshire is the *Nine* or *Nen*, which, rising in the west, flows first across the county to the eastern side, and then, turning more northward, accompanies the whole remaining length of it. From Northampton it is made navigable, and thus gives admision, though at a dear rate, to the sea-coal which is so much wanted in this county. It receives many small streams rising from the north-western side; and at Peterborough leaves the county in its progress across the isle of Ely to join the sea in Lincolnshire. This extreme point of Northamptonshire, furrounded and intersected by rivers, is very liable to inundations, and forms the commencement of the fenny tract which extends to the Lincolnshire Washes.

The *Ouse* just touches on the south-eastern corner of the county, forming a tract of rich meadows about Stony Stratford.

The products of Northamptonshire are in general the same with those of other farming countries. It is, indeed, peculiarly celebrated



brated for grazing land; that tract especially lying from Northampton northwards to the Leicestershire border. Horned cattle and other animals are here fed to extraordinary sizes, and many horses of the large black breed are reared. Woad for the dyer's use is cultivated in this part. Much of the arable in this county is still open-field land; and many sheep are fed on the high grounds.

Northamptonshire is not eminent for manufactures, nor are its towns remarkable for size or opulence.

*Northampton*, the capital, is a handsome well-built town, in a very healthy situation. Its principal manufactory is that of boots and shoes, of which many are made here, and in other parts of the county, for exportation. It has also some trade in wool-combing and jersey-spinning. The horse fairs of this place are greatly resorted to. In the meadows below the town was fought in 1460 a battle between the forces of Henry VI. and the Yorkists, in which the former



were defeated, and the king made prisoner. Not far from Northampton is a fine gothic edifice called *Queen's cross*, erected by king Edward I. to the memory of his beloved queen Eleanor.

*Daventry* has a considerable manufactory of whips and silk stockings.

*Wellingborough* does much business in the boot and shoe manufacture, and the lace trade.

The principal employment of *Kettering* is the spinning of jersey and some lace-making.

*Thrapston* and *Oundle* on the Nen have a share in the import and export trade of that river.

The city of *Peterborough* is of small size, but well built; and possesses a fine old cathedral. It has a trade in corn, coals, and timber.

*Fotheringay-castle* near *Oundle* is noted as the last place of confinement, and at length, of the execution, of Mary queen of Scots, who, in 1586, suffered here, with the greatest constancy, the death to which she was so unjustly sentenced.



But the most important event which happened in this county was the decisive battle fought in 1645 at *Naseby*, near the borders of Leicestershire, between Charles I. and the Parliament army commanded by Fairfax, which terminated in the total defeat and consequent ruin of that unfortunate king.



## WARWICKSHIRE.

THIS county, of an irregularly oval figure, terminating in a point at the north and south, is bordered upon almost equally by six counties, viz. Staffordshire, Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire, on the western side from north to south; and Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, and Oxfordshire, on the eastern side in the same order. Its length, from the northern to the southern extremity, is almost fifty miles; its breadth, across the middle, thirty-two. In situation it is the most central in the kingdom.

The river *Avon*, crossing Warwickshire in a very meandering course from the east to the south-west, divides it into two portions; of which the northern, and largest, was anciently almost an entire forest; while the southern was a champaign and cultivated country.

The woodland division, though now, for  
the



# WARWICKSHIRE.





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the most part cleared and cultivated, still retains somewhat of its wild character, being interspersed with wide heaths and moors, and sprinkled with woods. A large tract of it bears the noted forest-name of *Arden*. The northern part has a gravelly soil; but this changes to clay on advancing towards the middle. The principal stream in the north of this county is the *Tame*, which, coming out of Staffordshire, makes a sweep across a corner of Warwickshire; and after receiving several of its rivulets, and, among the rest, the *Ankor* at Tamworth, returns at that town into Staffordshire. Much cheese of a good kind is made in this northern part of the county; and it contains coal and limestone.

The southern portion, formerly called the *Feldon*, is a tract of great fertility, and very productive of corn. Its chief river is the *Leam*, which joins the Avon near Warwick. *Dunsmore-beath*, between these two rivers, now mostly enclosed, is the scene of some of the fabulous stories related of the famous Guy earl of Warwick.



On the borders of Oxfordshire is a low ridge called the *Edge-bills*. Here was fought in 1642 the first pitched battle between the forces of Charles I. and the Parliament, the event of which was indecisive, each party claiming the victory. Beneath this ridge lies the fruitful vale of *Red-horse*, extending up into Warwickshire. On the Northamptonshire border are some sheep pastures of excellent quality.

It is supposed on the whole, that about one fourth of the whole county is under a successive round of tillage; and of the remaining three fourths, the greater part is meadow and pasture, and about one fourth of it waste. Hence Warwickshire is principally characterized as a feeding and dairy county, and many of its breeds of cattle and sheep are of a superior kind. There are large woods and much timber of all kinds, especially of oak, in the county, particularly in that part which was the ancient forest of Arden; and the woodlands are kept under a regular system of management. A considerable



siderable quantity of flax is grown and manufactured in Warwickshire.

*Warwick*, the capital of the county, is an ancient and neat town, situated upon a rocky eminence above the Avon, and crowned with a fine castle of the earls of Warwick, still inhabited. It is not a place of trade.

The city of *Coventry*, a joint bishop's see with Litchfield, is a large and populous place, frequently mentioned in English history. It had very early a great trade in various articles of manufacture; as cloths, stuffs, thread, &c. At present the principal branch is that of silk ribbons, which employs a number of hands. The goods are sent to London by waggons. Some gauzes are, besides, made here, and some camlets and lastings. The buildings of this city are in general mean and ancient, and its streets narrow. Here is the head of a canal, intended to join the Staffordshire grand trunk with the Thames at Oxford.

*Nun Eaton*, to the north of Coventry, partakes with it in the ribbon manufactory.

But



But this county derives its principal consequence, as a commercial one, from the town of *Birmingham*, situated in a corner of its north-western side. For a considerable period its hardware manufactures have been noted; but of late years, by great additions to its trade from a vast variety of useful and ornamental articles, such as metal buttons, buckles, plated goods of all kinds, japanned and paper ware, &c. it has risen to be superior in populousness to any of the other modern trading towns in England, and has filled the surrounding country with industrious inhabitants. It is plentifully supplied with that important article coals, by means of a canal to Wednesbury in Staffordshire; and it has a communication with the great trunk from the Trent to the Severn, by means of a branch passing by Wolverhampton. The Birmingham goods are dispersed about the kingdom, but chiefly sent to London by land carriage. They are exported in great quantities to foreign countries, where, in point of cheapness and show united, they  
are



are unrivalled; so that Birmingham is become, according to the emphatical expression of a great orator, the *toy-shop of Europe*.

The improved steam engines made here by Messrs. Bolton and Watt deserve, however, to rank higher than toys among the productions of human ingenuity. Their application to various mechanical purposes, and particularly to the draining of mines which were before entirely overpowered by water, places them among the most valuable inventions of the age.

The town of *Stratford upon Avon* has obtained fame on a very different ground; for here, the pride of Englishmen and delight of the theatre,

— sweetest Shakespear, fancy's child,  
Warbled his native wood-notes wild.

*Kenelworth Castle*, betwixt Warwick and Coventry, was the scene of great magnificence in the reign of queen Elizabeth, who was here entertained with all the splendour the age could afford, by her favourite, Dudley earl of Leicester.



## WORCESTERSHIRE.

THIS county is bounded on the north by those of Salop and Stafford; on the west by Herefordshire; on the south by Gloucestershire; and on the east by Warwickshire. Its figure is very irregular: and it is remarkable for having several detached portions sprinkled about the neighbouring counties; a consequence, probably, of its having no natural boundaries. Its measurements, on this account, can scarcely be stated; but the greatest length may be about thirty miles, and breadth about twenty.

The *Severn*, entering this county from Shropshire, runs through its whole length; and, with the streams falling into it, of which the principal are the *Teme* or *Tend* from the north-west, the *Salwarp* from the north-east, the *Stour* from the north, and the *Avon* from the south-east, contributes to render the soil extremely fertile. The face of the  
country



# WORCESTER SHIRE.





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country is diversified with hill and vale. Of the hills, the principal are, the *Lickey* near Bromsgrove in the north, *Aberley* hill in the west, the *Malvern* hills in the south-west, and the *Bredon* hills in the south-east.

Of the vale in which the Severn runs in this county Dyer thus speaks ;

The vale of Severn, Nature's garden wide,  
By the blue steeps of distant Malvern wall'd,  
Solemnly vast. The trees of various shade,  
Scene behind scene, with fair delusive pomp,  
Enrich the prospect. FLEECE.

Another vale of great fame for fertility and beauty is that of *Evesham*, on the banks of the *Avon*, which flows along the south-eastern part of the county in its course to meet the Severn. Besides the usual objects of agriculture, great quantities of garden-stuff are here grown, and sent to the towns around to a considerable distance. In this vale fell Simon de Montfort, with many of his party, under the arms of prince Edward, son of Henry III. in the *Barons' war* against that king.

The



The products of Worcestershire, besides the common ones of corn and cattle, are fine wool, hops, cyder and perry: the latter, especially, is in great reputation. A large quantity of the whitest salt is made from the brine springs at *Droitwich*, and sent to Bristol and other places. The Severn, in this county and Gloucestershire, abounds with lampreys, which by some are much valued as a delicacy. In the Malvern hills a spring rises, of uncommon purity, which is much resorted to in scrofulous and scorbutic cases.

The capital, *Worcester*, seated on the Severn, is a large and handsome city, inhabited by many gentry, and also carrying on a considerable trade in the manufacture of woollen stuffs and gloves. It has likewise a manufactory of elegant china-ware. Here Cromwell, in 1651, obtained what he called his crowning victory over the Scotch army, which had marched into England for the purpose of placing Charles II. on the throne. It was after this defeat that the unfortunate prince



prince underwent such fatigues and romantic hazards in escaping from his enemies.

*Dudley*, which, though enclosed in Staffordshire, is under the jurisdiction of this county, partakes in the hardware manufactures.

*Stourbridge*, in its neighbourhood, upon the river Stour, is noted for its glass and iron works.

*Kidderminster*, on the same river, is the principal manufacturing place in this county. Its former trade of stuffs has much declined on account of the rivalry of the cottons; but the carpet manufactory has greatly increased; and this town has the first market in England for pile or plush carpets, which, for beauty of colours and patterns, exceed any other. These are frequently called *Wilton*, from having been first made at that town; but at present, by much the greater part are made at Kidderminster. The worsted-shag trade has also been introduced here, and employs a good many looms. The goods go chiefly to Portugal; and their



their carriage has been much facilitated by the late canal communications.

*Stour-port*, near Kidderminster, where the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal joins the Severn, is a new creation, and, from a plain field, is become in a few years a thriving and very busy centre of inland water carriage.

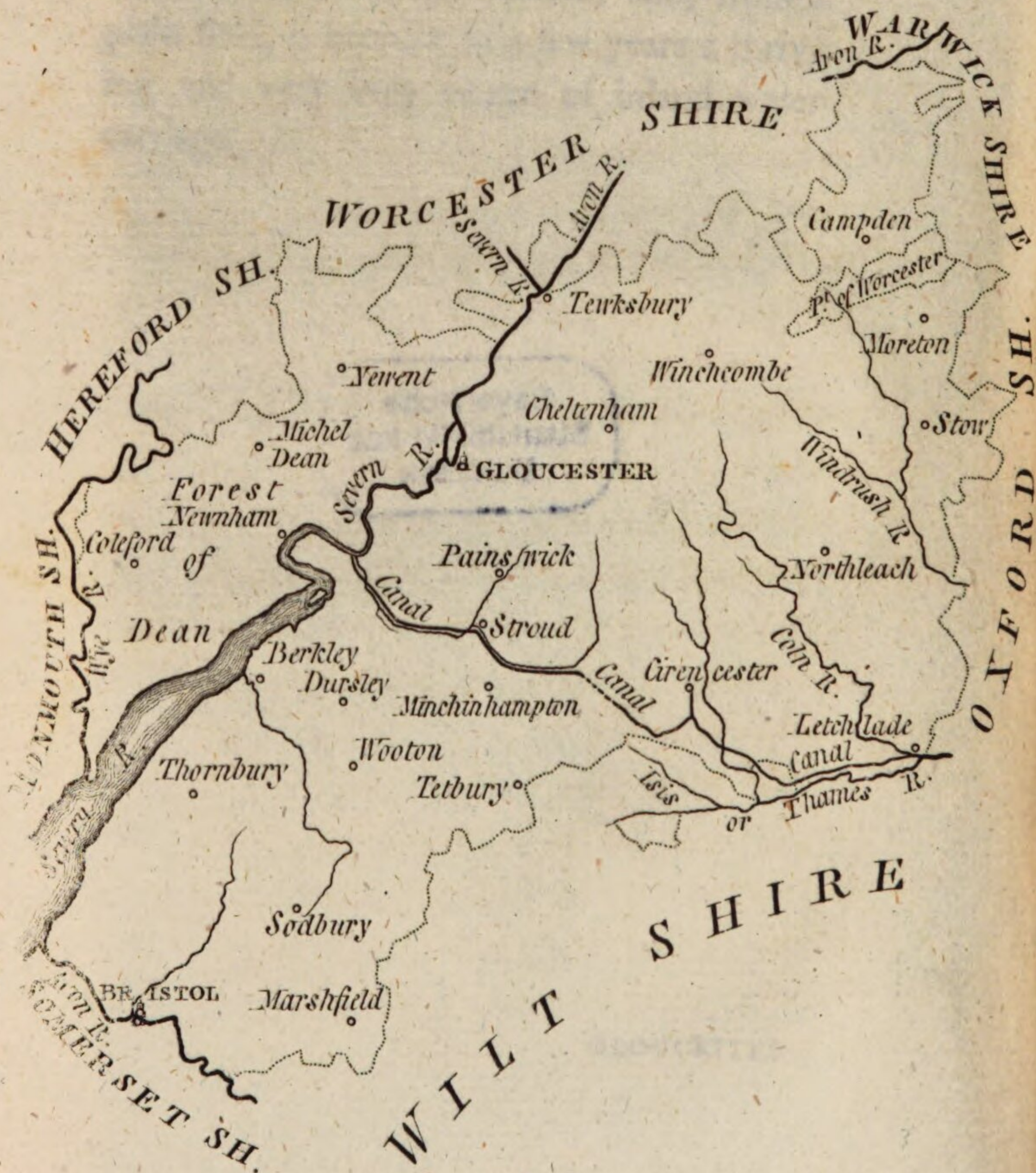
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# GLOUCESTERSHIRE.





## GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Worcestershire, on the east by Warwickshire and Oxfordshire, on the south by Wiltshire and part of Somersetshire, and on the west by the counties of Monmouth and Hereford. It stretches from north-east to south-west to the extent of more than sixty miles; but never exceeds twenty-six in breadth. It is divided into two unequal parts by the *Severn*, which, entering Gloucestershire a little above Tewkesbury, and joined by the current of the *Avon*, hastens to diffuse fertility over the spacious vale through which it flows.

The lower part of its western boundary (remarkable for the picturesque scenery of its borders) is formed by the *Wye*, which, reaching this county a little below Ross in Herefordshire, separates it for the rest of its progress from the county of Monmouth.

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Its south-western extremity is divided from Somersetshire by the *Lower Avon*, which, though unequal to the Warwickshire Avon in the beauty of its stream, runs between more romantic banks, and forces its passage to the sea through St. Vincent's rocks, below the city of Bristol. The tides from St. George's Channel, meeting with the powerful tides from the Atlantic, enter the mouths of the Severn and its tributary streams with a rapid influx; and, rolling on with a lofty head, received from our earliest historians the name of the *Hygra*. Of these rivers, the Severn and the Wye abound with excellent salmon, which, by means of the flying coaches, find a ready passport to the markets of the metropolis.

Gloucestershire is naturally divided into three longitudinal stripes, or districts, which differ materially from each other.

The eastern stripe, which is much the widest, is called the *Coteshwold*. This is a long tract of high ground, for the most part bleak and bare, yet affording in many places  
a short



a short fine grafs, for the feed of ſheep, and at preſent principally devoted to the growth of corn.

High Cotefwold, alſo 'mong the ſhepherd ſwains  
Is oft remember'd, though the greedy plough  
Preys on its carpet.

FLEECE.

The native ſheep of this diſtrict were a ſmall light kind, with a very fine but ſcanty fleece. The breed has of late years been improved by mixtures from other counties, with reſpect to weight of carcaſs and quantity of wool, though at the ſame time the wool has been rendered coarſer. It is ſtill, however, in high eſteem as combing wool. Cotefwold is diſtinguiſhed for the cultivation of that excellent artificial grafs, ſaint-foin, which is uſed both for paſture and hay.

The ſides of this long range are extremely beautiful as they ſink into the vale, from the hills of *Stinchcomb* and *Nibley* in the ſouth, to that of *Bredon* in the north, which has been celebrated in ancient rhyme. The



*Stroudwater hills* form a tract connected with and similar to the Cotefwold, but of a lighter soil.

The middle stripe is the spacious and extensive vale bordering on the Severn, whose fertile pastures furnish the kingdom with that cheese for which the county is justly famous. This vale, communicating with that of *Evesham* of more contracted dimensions, has received, for no assignable reason, the same general title.

The western, which is by much the shortest district, is wholly varied with hill and dale; and is chiefly occupied by the *forest of Deane*, once reckoned the chief support of the English navy, and which, it is said, the Armada was expressly commissioned to destroy. It is now thinned by frequency of felling, and narrowed by increase of cultivation, though a few solitary deer still continue to run wild in its recesses.

The staple commodities of this county are its woollen cloth and its cheese. At *Dursley*, *Wotton*, *Painswick*, *Minchin-Hampton*, and the



the neighbourhood, white cloths are chiefly made for the army, and the Turkey and India trades, many of which are dyed in London, but all in the piece. The Gloucestershire cheese has been reckoned the best which the kingdom produces, unless we except the Cheshire, of which the comparative cheapness may perhaps be considered as a proof of the inferiority. In both these articles of trade the county is now somewhat on the decline. Its cloth has been successfully rivalled in Yorkshire, and its cheese in North Wiltshire.

Besides these staple commodities, the forests of *Deane* and *Kingwood* abound in mines of iron and coal; of which the coal is principally expended in the internal consumption of this and the neighbouring counties, and the iron is hammered out in numerous forges, and manufactured for different purposes in some capital iron works.

The vale and the forest of *Deane* abound in orchards, which are supposed to occupy the place of ancient vineyards, and which



annually produce great plenty of excellent cyder. The *Styre*, a kind in great esteem, is almost peculiar to the western banks of the Severn. Some of the perry of this district is the basis of most of the wine sold for Champagne in the metropolis. The bacon of this county is also in high reputation, and forms a considerable article of its domestic commerce.

If we enter Gloucestershire with the Severn, the first object of curiosity at the confluence of that river with the Avon, is the town of *Tewkesbury*, formerly noted for the excellence of its mustard, but now only distinguished (as to its trade) for a manufactory of cotton stockings. But its church, and the ruins of its monastery, are most worthy of notice; the former of which contains the relics of those who fell at the battle of Tewkesbury, and, among the rest, of prince Edward, son of Henry VI. who was butchered in cold blood after the engagement. This was fought in 1471, and proved decisive against the Lancastrians, who were  
never



never afterwards able to make head against Edward IV.

Not far from hence is the *isle of Eight*, in the Severn, where, as some suppose, the single combat between Edmund Ironside and Canute the Great was terminated by an amicable resolution of dividing the crown.

As we proceed down the river, at some little distance to the left, lies the town of *Cheltenham*, noted for its purgative chalybeat spring, which has rendered it of late years a place of fashionable resort. It is no less remarkable for being situated in a deep sand, very rarely to be met with in any other part of the county.

We next approach the city of *Gloucester*, the capital of the county, which has lately been much improved, and whose four principal streets are admired for the regularity of their junction in the centre of the town. A pin-manufactory affords the principal employment to the inhabitants of Gloucester. It is also engaged in the traffic up and down the Severn. A magnificent plan is formed



of a canal from hence to the mouth of the Severn, capable of being navigated by vessels of considerable burthen. A canal is already made from Gloucester to Hereford, through Ledbury.

Still following the course of the river to the sea, we leave, about seven miles to the eastward, the town of *Stroud*, built on the side of a little stream, the properties of which are said to be peculiarly adapted to the dying of scarlet. For this reason its banks are crowded with the houses of clothiers; and the rivulet being itself inconsiderable, a navigable canal accompanies its progress to the Severn. This canal, with great expense and labour, is now extending to join the Thames at Lechlade; the head of whose noble stream lies in the borders of this county about two miles from Cirencester, on the edge of the high road between that town and Tetbury.

*Cirencester* was a place of eminence in former days. It is at present a great thoroughfare, and one of the most considerable towns



towns in Gloucestershire; though its wool market, for which it was in later times more peculiarly famous, has gradually dwindled away, as the practice of buying up wool in the country has increased. Adjoining to this town is the extensive park of Lord Bathurst, which has been uniformly mentioned with commendation since the time of Pope, and has certainly received more than its due share of celebrity.

*Tetbury* is likewise a place of some importance; but its market for the staple commodities of the county, wool and cheese, has of late years suffered a gradual decline, like that of its neighbour. The chief ornament of Tetbury is its newly-erected church, built in a spirited imitation of gothic models.

Advancing nearer to the Bristol channel we pass the towers of *Berkeley castle*, where the unfortunate Edward II. long harassed by the miseries of confinement, was at length inhumanly murdered. This is the direful event alluded to by the prophetic bard, in

The



The shrieks of death thro' Berkley's roofs that ring,  
Shrieks of an agonizing king.

GRAY'S BARD.

This castle was originally a nunnery; and, in the times of superstition, the rich *vale* abounded in edifices dedicated to religion.

The great commercial city of Bristol is situated partly on the Gloucestershire and partly on the Somersetshire side of the river Avon. Its largest portion is within Gloucestershire; but as the city, before it was made a county of itself, was adjudged to Somersetshire, we shall take notice of it under that county. The rocks of *St. Vincent* and the *Hot Wells* beneath them, however, belong to the county we are now treating of. In the former are found those native crystals so well known under the name of Bristol stones. The latter are warm springs, of great purity, which have obtained a high reputation in the treatment of consumptive cases.

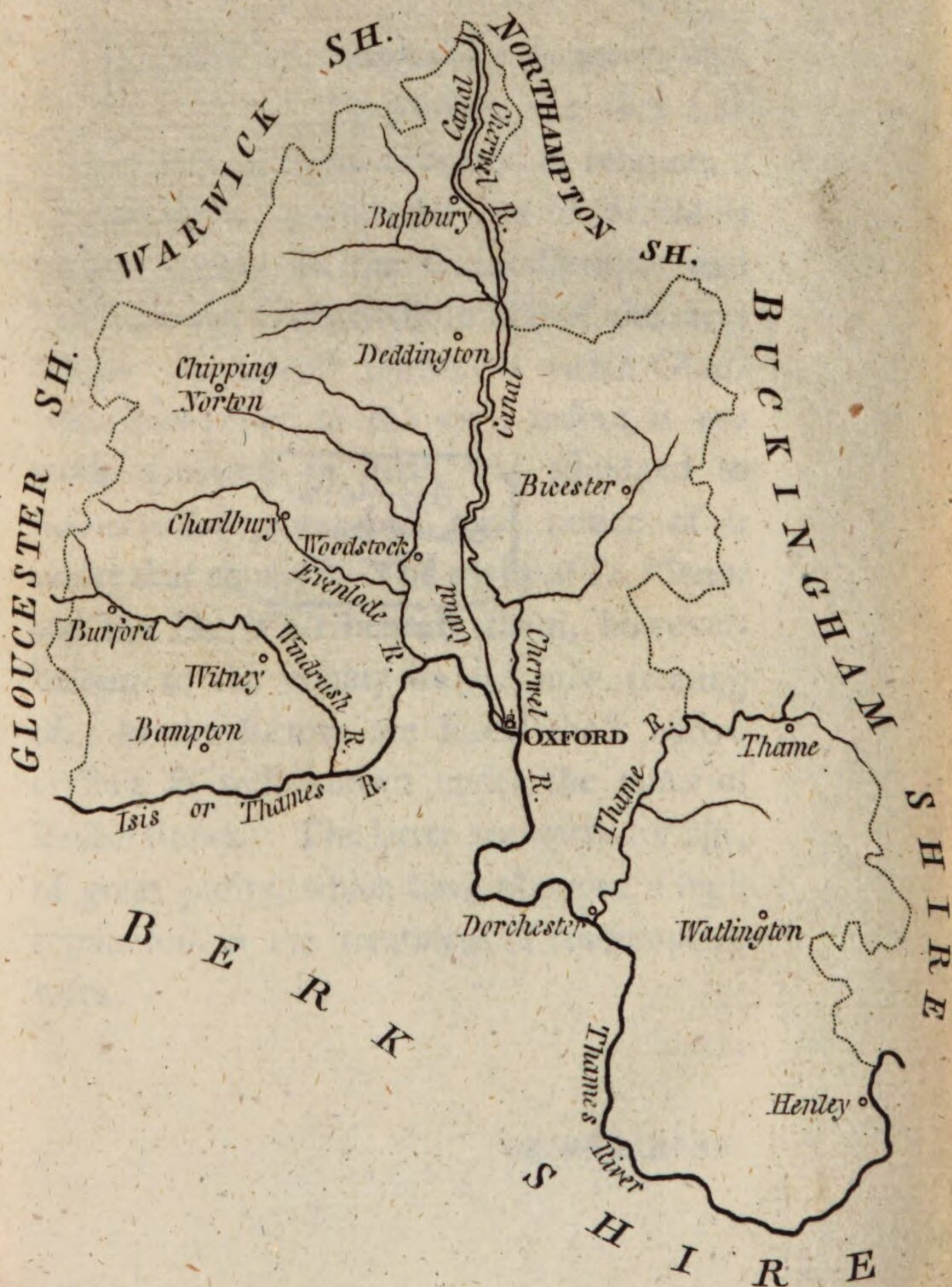
OXFORDSHIRE.



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# OXFORDSHIRE.





## O X F O R D S H I R E.

THIS county on the north is bounded by Warwickshire and Northamptonshire, on the west by Gloucestershire, on the south by Berkshire, and on the east by Buckinghamshire. The Thames gives it a natural limit on the whole southern side; and indeed the importance of this river is shown by no circumstance more than its serving as a boundary to the contiguous counties on each side, for almost the whole of its course. Under the name of *Thames* is here included its principal branch the *Isis*; for, in fact, the best writers assert that *Isis* is a mere poetical name, not known by the inhabitants of its banks, who uniformly call the principal river the Thames, quite up to its head. *Isis* is the ancient name *Ouse*, common to so many rivers, latinized.

The figure of this county is singularly irregular, consisting, as it were, of two parts;  
a broader



a broader northern, and narrower southern, with a still narrower neck between the two. The three counties of Buckingham, Oxford, and Berks, each of itself very irregularly shaped, are so fitted to each other, as to form together a pretty regular circular tract. The extreme length of Oxfordshire is forty-eight miles; its greatest breadth twenty-six.

With respect to soil and face of country; the northern corner is chiefly strong deep land, partly arable, partly pasture, appropriated to the dairy. South of this is an extensive tract, the hilly part of which has a shallow stony soil. The bottoms are clayey, and afford good pasture by the sides of the rivers. The south-west corner contains the forest of Whichwood, great part of which is woodland. Below it, nearer to the Isis, the situation is low and wet, and the land chiefly meadow and pasture. About Oxford, to the north and south, the soil is various, part being light and sandy, part deep and rich. Near to Stanton St. John is a considerable tract of woodland. On  
the



the banks of the Thame the land is chiefly pasture. Between it and the Chilterns is mostly arable, bordered by a range of downs. The Chiltern hills form a wide tract, of which the soil is chalk mixed with some loam and clay, but very full of flints. Much of this is covered with beech woods, but there are large wastes, and also considerable enclosures, and some vallies of meadow land bordering the Thames.

The middle of the county is watered by numerous streams, running from north to south, and terminating in the Thames. Of these the most considerable are, the *Windrush*, coming down from Burford and Witney; the *Evenlode*, from the neighbourhood of Chipping-Norton; and the *Cherwell*, which rising in the most northern part of the county, passes Banbury, and, after collecting the waters of many rivulets, mixes with the leading stream at Oxford.

The *Tame*, commonly supposed to give name to the Thames, is an inconsiderable rivulet, which, flowing by the town of

4

Tame,



Tame, bends round to meet the imaginary Isis above Wallingford.

The products of Oxfordshire are chiefly those common to the midland farming counties. Its hills yield ochre, pipe clay, and other earths, useful for various purposes. Corn and malt are transmitted from it by means of the Thames to the metropolis. Good cheese is made in the grazing parts. In the enclosed parts about the middle, much butter is made, and many calves reared, the veal of which is sent to London. The greatest want in this county is that of fuel; for, most of the woods with which it once abounded being cut down or greatly diminished, it is necessary to supply the deficiency of fire-wood with sea-coal, brought by a long and troublesome navigation from London. The intended junction of the Thames with the Trent and Mersey, by a canal passing through Oxfordshire, will, in some measure, remedy this inconvenience, which is severely felt by the poor, the county in general having a cold climate, especially  
in



in the north-western division, where the fences are chiefly stone.

The great glory of this county is its capital, the city of *Oxford*, containing the largest of the two English universities; a seat of learning with the reputation of which the whole literary world is sufficiently acquainted. It consists of twenty-five colleges and halls, many of them buildings of great size and magnificence, and very richly endowed. The appearance of these edifices, and other public structures, some of antique, and others of modern, architecture, disposed in the spacious streets of a city of itself handsomely built, and finely situated, produces an effect singularly striking and majestic.

Oxford is as renowned a seat of loyalty as of erudition; many of our kings having for a time resided here, and summoned hither their parliaments. The unfortunate Charles I. here held his court during the whole civil wars, whence it became a sort of centre of various military exploits in this  
and



and the furrounding counties. One of these, the skirmish at *Chalgrave*, near Watlington, in 1643, deserves to be commemorated, as having cost the life of that great patriot John Hampden, whose firm resistance to the arbitrary measures of the court was a principal cause of the war.

*Witney* is a populous town, noted for its manufactory of the finest blankets, and other thick woollens, called bear-skins and kerseys. For these articles fine wool is brought from Herefordshire and Worcestershire, and coarse from Lincolnshire. The goods are all sent by land to London. The finest blankets are exported to Spain and Portugal: the coarse woollens to Canada and other parts of North America.

*Woodstock*, a small town north of Oxford, has a manufactory of ornamental goods in polished steel, which employs a few hands; and another of gloves. It was formerly famous for its royal park, in the intricate recesses of which king Henry II. concealed his mistress, the fair Rosamond. The spot  
is



is now no less celebrated for the magnificent seat of *Blenheim*, a gift of the British parliament to the great Duke of Marlborough, on account of his signal victory over the French at Hochstet, or Blenheim, in Germany.

*Banbury*, in the northern extremity of the county, is noted for its malt liquor and cheese. It has a manufactory of worsted shags. Near this place, in 1469, the Earl of Warwick, at the head of the Lancastrians, defeated the Yorkists, and made Edward IV. prisoner.

At *Hogs* or *Hook Norton*, on the Warwickshire border, the English sustained a memorable defeat from the Danes, about the year 914.



## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THIS county is contiguous to Northamptonshire on the north, Oxfordshire on the west, Berkshire and a point of Surry on the south, and the counties of Middlesex, Hertford, and Bedford, on the east. Its principal natural boundary is the Thames, which borders its whole southern side. The Coln also separates it from Middlesex; and other streams take up the boundary in different parts. Its figure tends to a crescent, but its outline is rendered very irregular by projections and indentations. From the south-eastern to the north-western extremity it measures upwards of fifty miles, while its greatest breadth is little more than sixteen.

The southern part of Buckinghamshire, beyond the banks of the Thames, is principally taken up with the *Chiltern-hills* and their appendages, composed of chalk, and in various parts covered with woods. Some



# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.





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of its eminences are of considerable height, and afford fine prospects.

Beyond these, the rich *Vale of Aylesbury*, one of the most fertile tracts in the kingdom, occupies the middle of the county; and a varied country, rising into gentle sand-hills on the Bedfordshire border, extends over the northern part.

The river *Ouse*, entering Buckinghamshire on the western side, and then turning northwards, crosses over at length near the northern extremity, marking its course by a tract of rich meadows.

Here Ouse, slow winding thro' a level plain  
Of spacious meads with cattle sprinkled o'er,  
Conducts the eye along his sinuous course  
Delighted.

COWPER'S TASK.

The *Tame*, rising in Hertfordshire, crosses from east to west through Aylesbury vale, in its way to Oxfordshire.

Several other small streams flow through the county, and are useful in turning corn and paper mills.

With respect to the products of Bucking-



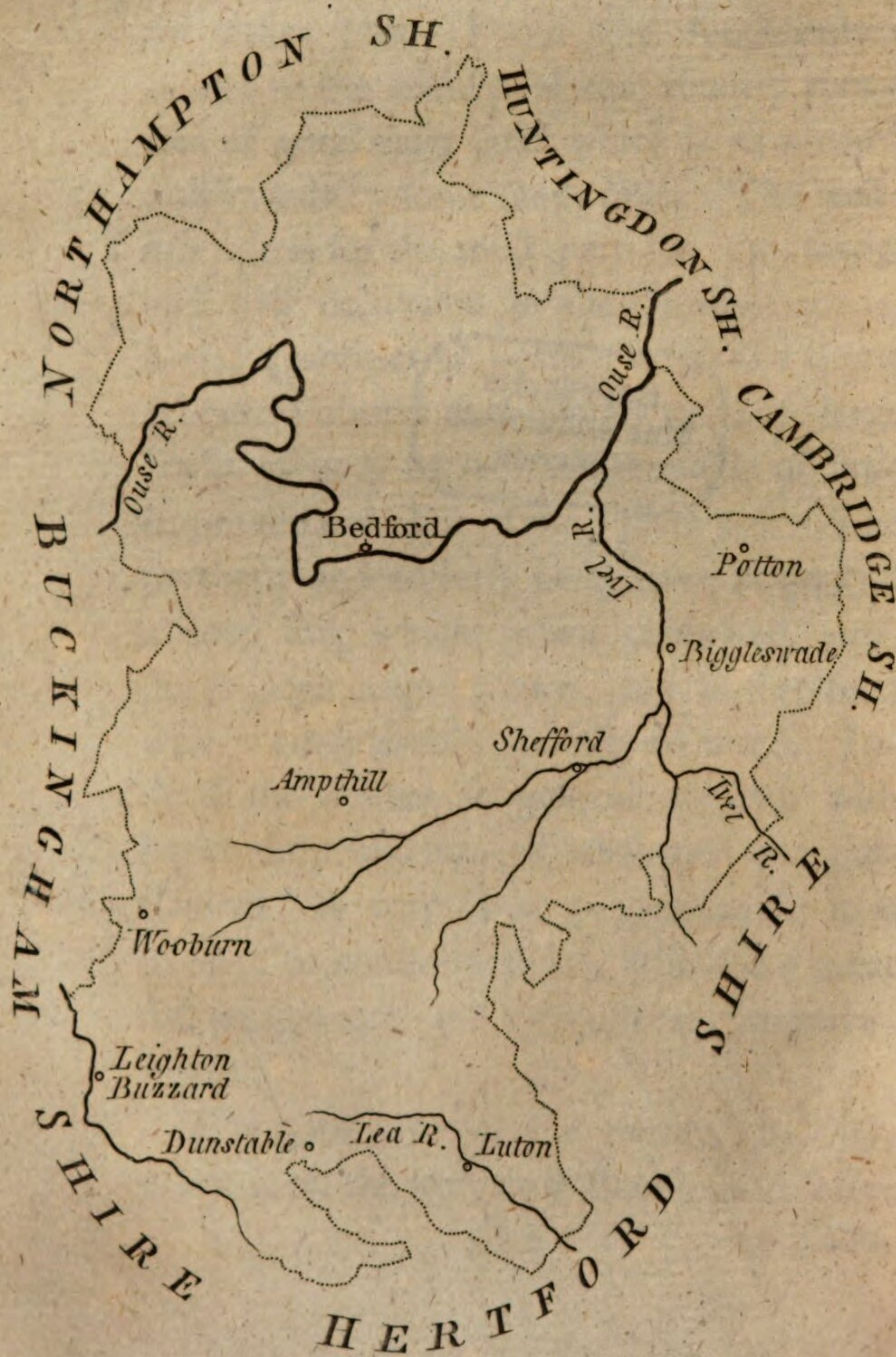
## BEDFORDSHIRE.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Huntingdonshire and Northamptonshire, on the west by Buckinghamshire, on the south by the same county and that of Hertford, and on the east by the latter and that of Cambridge. Its limits are very winding and irregular; and its only natural ones are the Ouse, for a short space, on the east and west sides: and a rivulet on the south-west border. The utmost length of the county is thirty-five miles, and the greatest breadth about twenty.

The face of the country in Bedfordshire is in general varied with small hills and vallies, and affords few extensive level tracts. On the south, the ridge of chalk hills rises to a considerable height, and frequently projects abruptly into the vallies in a striking manner. Under them is a large tract of hard steril land, which gives this part a dreary



# BEDFORDSHIRE.





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M 2 hamshire,



hamshire, barley is chiefly cultivated in the Chiltern; and great part of the Vale is devoted to the grazing of cattle and feeding of sheep, which is a source of much opulence to the landholders. The dairies are principally employed in making butter for the supply of the metropolis. Fine wheat with other grain and beans are grown in the uplands. The wood of the hills, chiefly beech, is a considerable article of profit both as fuel and timber.

The manufacture of bone-lace is carried on to greater extent and perfection in this county than in any other; particularly in the town and neighbourhood of *Newport Pagnel*, which is a sort of mart for that article, and flourishes considerably by its means. The paper manufacture is the other most important branch of commercial employment.

*Buckingham* is a decayed place, of little consequence. It shares the privilege of holding the assizes with *Aylesbury*. This last is the most populous town in the county, and the centre of the business of the rich  
Vale



Vale. The inhabitants of this place and neighbourhood are in possession of the art of rearing early ducklings, which is carried to such an extent, that it is said three thousand pounds have been received at Aylesbury for the supply of the London markets, in six weeks, usually terminating in March.

The village of *Eton*, opposite to Windsor, is distinguished by its college, or public school, founded by king Henry VI. and the greatest institution of the kind in the kingdom.



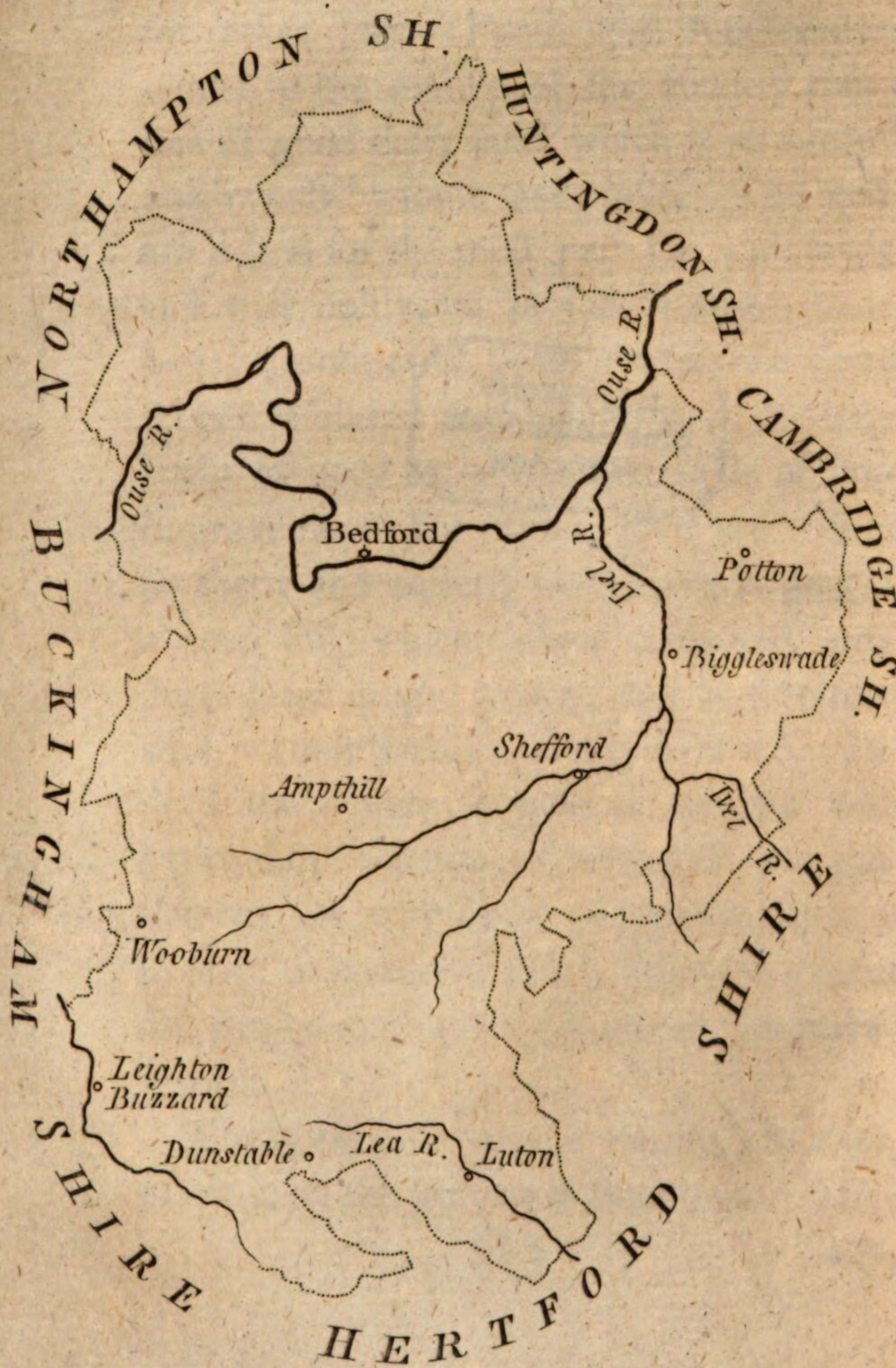
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# BEDFORDSHIRE.









dreary and uncomfortable appearance. Yet the chalky earth itself is used as a manure for other soils. From the south-eastern corner to the middle of the country runs a line of good dairy land, which is terminated northwards by some sandy hills. The western side is for the most part flat and sandy, and well cultivated in the Norfolk mode. Great quantities of beans are grown there. About Woburn, in the south-west, are large tracts of deep barren sand, capable of little improvement but from planting. The northern and eastern parts have in general a deep soil, which, when cultivated, produces large crops of corn; and is furnished with a considerable quantity of wood. Indeed the county in general abounds with parks about the seats of noblemen and gentlemen. A very large proportion of it is in open or common fields, which is a great discouragement to agricultural improvements.

The great river of the county, the *Ouse*, enters it on the west from Buckinghamshire;



and, taking a very winding course through fertile meadows, passes the town of Bedford, from which it becomes navigable, and makes its exit into Huntingdonshire. The stream of this river is remarkably slow, except in time of floods, when it is liable to great inundations.

The Ouse receives most of the small streams of Bedfordshire, of which the largest is the *Ivel*, flowing from the south by Biggleswade, from whence it is navigable to the Ouse.

The principal products of Bedfordshire are corn and butter, much of the former of which is sent down the Ouse to Lynn, and of the latter goes to London by land carriage. Some parishes are famous for producing large quantities of garden-stuff, which supply the country round.

The most valuable mineral product of this county is fuller's earth, a kind of mixed clay, of great use in cleansing woollen cloth from all oily and greasy matters. It is dug out of pits in the neighbourhood of Woburn.

Bedfordshire



Bedfordshire partakes less than most parts of the kingdom in the benefits of trade and manufactures. The poor have scarcely any other employment than a little lace-making, chiefly on the Buckinghamshire side, which goes to the shopkeepers in exchange for goods; and a manufacture of straw-plat made into hats, baskets, and toys, in and about Dunstable. Some of these hats are exported to Holland. Fashion has lately very much favoured this manufacture.

*Bedford*, the county-town, is an ancient and tolerably populous place, which carries on a considerable trade in coals, timber, malt and corn, by means of its navigable river. It has a great number of poor inhabitants, invited by an estate left to the town within the precincts of London, the value of which is become very considerable. Their chief employment is lace-making.

*Amptbill*, a small market-town, is noted for having been the residence of Catherine wife of Henry VIII. during the time her unjust divorce was in agitation. This event  
is



is commemorated by the following elegant inscription by Mr. Fitzpatrick, on a column where the old castle stood:

In days of old, here Ampthill's tow'rs were seen,  
The mournful refuge of an injur'd queen;  
Here flow'd her pure, but unavailing, tears;  
Here blinded zeal sustain'd her sinking years;  
Yet Freedom hence her radiant banner wav'd,  
And Love aveng'd a realm by priests enslav'd;  
From Catherine's wrongs a nation's bliss was spread,  
And Luther's light from Henry's lawless bed.



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# LINCOLNSHIRE.





## L I N C O L N S H I R E.

THIS great county, the third with respect to size in the kingdom, is bounded on the north by Yorkshire, from which it is in great part separated by the Humber; on the east by the German ocean, by that arm of the sea called the Wash, and by a part of Norfolk; on the west by the counties of Nottingham and Leicester; and on the south by those of Rutland, Northampton, and Cambridge. Its form is oblong, with a hunch or bow jutting into the sea. Its length is full seventy miles, and greatest breadth forty-five.

Lincolnshire is divided into three districts; those of *Lindsey*, *Kesteven*, and *Holland*. Of these, *Lindsey* is much the largest, comprehending all the country from Fossdike and the Witham northwards. It is, upon the whole, the highest part of this county, though without any eminence which deserves  
the



the name of a hill. Towards the north-eastern part is a large tract of heathy land, called the *Wolds*, of which the southern portion is well inhabited, but the northern very thin of people. Great flocks of sheep are bred throughout this tract. The north-western part of Lindsey contains the river-land of *Axholm*, formed by the Trent, Dun, and Idle; a rich low tract, in which much flax is cultivated. Besides the *Trent*, which first bounds and then crosses a corner of this quarter, it has the rivulet of *Ankam*, noted for its fine eels, which empties itself into the Humber, and has lately been made navigable for sloops as far as Glanford-bridge.

The district of *Kesteven* contains the western part of the county, from the middle to the southern extremity. It possesses variety of soil; but on the whole, though intermixed with large heaths, is a fertile country. The principal of these heaths are those of Ancaster and Lincoln, forming a very extensive tract, which has however  
been



been of late years in great part enclosed. A long ridge of high ground abruptly bounds it to the westward, beginning near Grantham, and continuing with little interruption, to the north of Lincoln. The chief river of Kesteven is the *Witham*; which, rising in the south-west corner, flows to Lincoln; and, making a semicircular sweep, bends round to join the sea below Boston. It is a shallow stream, abounding greatly in pikes. From Lincoln it has a communication with the Trent, by means of a navigable canal called the *Fossdike*, cut by king Henry I. and still of great use in conveying away the corn, wool, and other commodities of the county.

Part of the fens are in the district of Kesteven; but the much greater part are in the remaining and smaller one of *Holland*, a country in nature as well as in appellation similar to the province of the same name in the Dutch Netherlands. It occupies the south-eastern quarter of Lincolnshire, being contiguous to the shallow inlet of the sea called



called the *Wash*. Holland is divided into upper and lower; both of the divisions entirely consisting of fens and marshes; some in a state of nature, but others cut by numberless drains and canals, and crossed by raised causeways. The lower, or southern, is the most watery, and is only preserved from constant inundations by vast banks raised on the sea-coast and rivers. The air of these tracts is bad and unwholesome; and the water in general so brackish as to be unfit for internal purposes; whence the inhabitants are obliged to make reservoirs of rain water. In summer, vast swarms of insects fill the air, and prove a great nuisance. Yet even here industry has produced comfort and opulence, by forming excellent pasture-land out of the swamps and bogs, and even making them capable of producing large crops of corn. The fens, too, in their native state, are not without their utility; and afford various objects of curiosity to the naturalist. The reeds with which their waters are covered make the best of  
thatch,



thatch, and are annually harvested in great quantity for that purpose. Prodigious flocks of geese are bred among the undrained fens, forming a considerable object of commerce, as well for their quills and feathers, as for the bird itself, which is driven in great numbers to the London markets. The principal decoys in England for wild-ducks, teal, widgeon, and other fowls of the duck kind, are in these parts, and afford the chief supplies to the metropolis. Wild-geese, grebes, godwits, whimbrels, coots, ruffs and reeves, and a great variety of other species of water-fowl, breed here in amazing numbers, and obtain plentiful food from the fishy pools and streams. Stares, or starlings, during winter resort in myriads to roost on the reeds, breaking them down by their weight. Near Spalding is the greatest herony in England, where the herons build together on high trees like rooks. The avoet, or yelper, distinguished by its bill, which bends upwards, is found in great numbers about Fossdike Wash; as also those



those delicate birds for the table, knots and dottrels.

From the above account of the different districts, it will appear that it is with injustice Lincolnshire in general is reckoned a low and fenny county. In fact, the uplands, open and inclosed, appear on calculation to be near double in extent to the inclosed and open marshes or fens.

With respect to the general products of Lincolnshire, its higher grounds yield grain of all sorts in great abundance; and its lower, oats, hemp, flax, woad, and other articles of culture. But it is particularly distinguished as a grazing county, and is remarkable for rearing all kinds of animals to the greatest size and weight. Its horses, horned-cattle, and sheep, are all of the largest breed. The latter are clothed with a long thick wool, peculiarly fitted for the worsted and coarse woollen manufactures, of which great quantities are sent into Yorkshire and other counties.

Lincolnshire is not itself a manufacturing  
county



county (at least only in a very small degree), and indeed has declined from its ancient populousness and consequence. A principal reason of this is the singular decay of its sea-ports, which, though formerly numerous, are now almost entirely choaked up with sand, and some of them quite deserted by the ocean. The long bow-like coast is fronted by sand hills or salt marshes; and, like those in the Dutch provinces, secured from the waves by dykes: it is so low as to be visible only to a small distance from the sea. The mouth of the Witham is now the sole inlet fit for the purposes of navigation. Here is situated the port of the county.

*Boston*, a considerable, thriving, and well-built town. Its harbour can only admit vessels of inferior burthen. It has some trade to the Baltic, and a great exportation of oats to London. A navigation, partly natural, along the Witham, and partly by canal, goes from hence to Lincoln, at the termination of which, in Boston, is a large

N

and



and curious sluice. Another canal is cut to Bourn. The tower-steeple of Boston is one of the most lofty and elegant structures of the kind, and is a noted sea-mark. Some of the best grazing grounds in the county lie round Boston; and, in the new enclosures near it, vast crops of oats are grown.

*Lincoln*, the capital, is an ancient ill-built city, greatly sunk from its former state, when it was one of the most considerable places in the kingdom. Its large cathedral is much admired for its inside architecture, which is in the richest and lightest gothic style. The chief trade of Lincoln is in coals, brought by the Trent and Fossdike. Along the Witham, oats and wool are principally sent. There is a small manufactory of camlets at Lincoln.

*Gainsborough*, on the Trent, is a river-port of some consequence, being accessible to vessels of size sufficient to navigate the sea. It serves as a place of export and import for the northern part of the county.

*Louth*,



*Louth*, a handsome well-inhabited town, has a new navigation by means of its brook, the Lud, to the sea at Tetney creek.

*Horncastle* is noted for its horse fairs, at which a great number of carriage horses, bred in Yorkshire, and kept for some time in that neighbourhood, are sold to the London dealers.

*Stamford*, situated at the most southern point of the county, is a large old town, which formerly, for a short time, possessed an university. The Welland is made navigable from hence.

*Spalding*, near the mouth of the Welland, from its neatness, and the canals in its streets, resembles a Dutch town. The river here is so full of shoals, that barges can only get up at spring tides. Much hemp and flax is grown in its neighbourhood and sold in its market.

*Crowland* exhibits the remains of a very celebrated abbey, founded by religious zeal in the midst of a shaking fen. In general it may be remarked, that the religious edifices



of these fenny tracts are remarkably stately and handsome stone buildings, though there is not a quarry within the space of a great many miles.

The great arm of the sea called the *Wash*, or *Washes*, is passable at low water; but not without some danger from quicksands, as was fatally experienced by King John, who, in the Barons' wars, here lost all his carriages and camp equipage with many men.

Within these seven years great numbers of spinning schools have been established in the southern parts of Lincolnshire by the patriotism of several persons of rank, whence considerable quantities of worsted yarn are made in the county from wool that used to be sent away unwrought, in the fleece. The same persons have promoted the wearing of stuffs manufactured within the county.



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# HUNTINGDONSHIRE.





## HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

THIS small county is almost enclosed by Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire; the former of which bounds it on the north-east and part of the south, the latter on the north and west. The remainder is bounded by Bedfordshire. The river Nen, and the canals, or dykes, joining it to the Ouse, form its limits on the north and north-east. The Ouse, at its entrance, separates it for a short space from Bedfordshire; and, at its exit, from Cambridgeshire. The figure of this county is so irregular as scarcely to afford a proper measurement; but reckoning from its furthest projections, it does not exceed twenty-four miles each way; and, in general, is of much less extent.

The face of the country has three varieties. The borders of the *Ouse*, which flows across the south-eastern part, consist of a tract of most fertile and beautiful meadows; of which



*Port-holm-mead* near Huntingdon, almost enclosed by a bend of the river, is particularly celebrated. The middle and western parts are finely varied in their surface, fruitful in corn, and sprinkled with woods. The whole upland part, in ancient times, was a forest, and peculiarly adapted for the chase; whence the name of the county took its rise.

The north-eastern part consists of fens, which join those of Ely. Part of these are drained so as to afford rich pasturage for cattle, and even large crops of corn. In the midst of them are some shallow pools, abounding with fish. The largest of these is a lake of considerable size called *Whittle-sea Meer*. The fen lands are computed at about a fifth of the whole extent of the county.

Huntingdonshire is a farming county, and possesses no manufacture but a little wool-stapling, and the spinning of yarn. Its principal towns are situated on the Ouse.

*Huntingdon*, the capital, is of moderate  
size,



size, and neatly built; but has formerly been much more considerable than at present. It was the birth-place of that very famous and extraordinary person, the usurper, Oliver Cromwell.

Across the river from this town lies *Godmanchester*, a large village, noted from ancient times for its wealthy farmers.

*Saint Ives*, lower down the river, is a good market-town, which makes and exports large quantities of malt. Its markets and fairs for live cattle are some of the greatest in England.

At *Ramsay*, on the edge of the fens, was formerly a very rich abbey, built, like that of Crowland, in the midst of a bog. The situation of these, and of various other religious houses (as those of Ely and Thorney) was probably chosen as well with a view to security from the difficulty of approach, as to the plenty of fish and water-fowl inhabiting these watery retreats.

*Kimbolton-castle* was the place where Catherine,



therine, the divorced wife of Henry VIII. ended her days in a peaceful retirement.

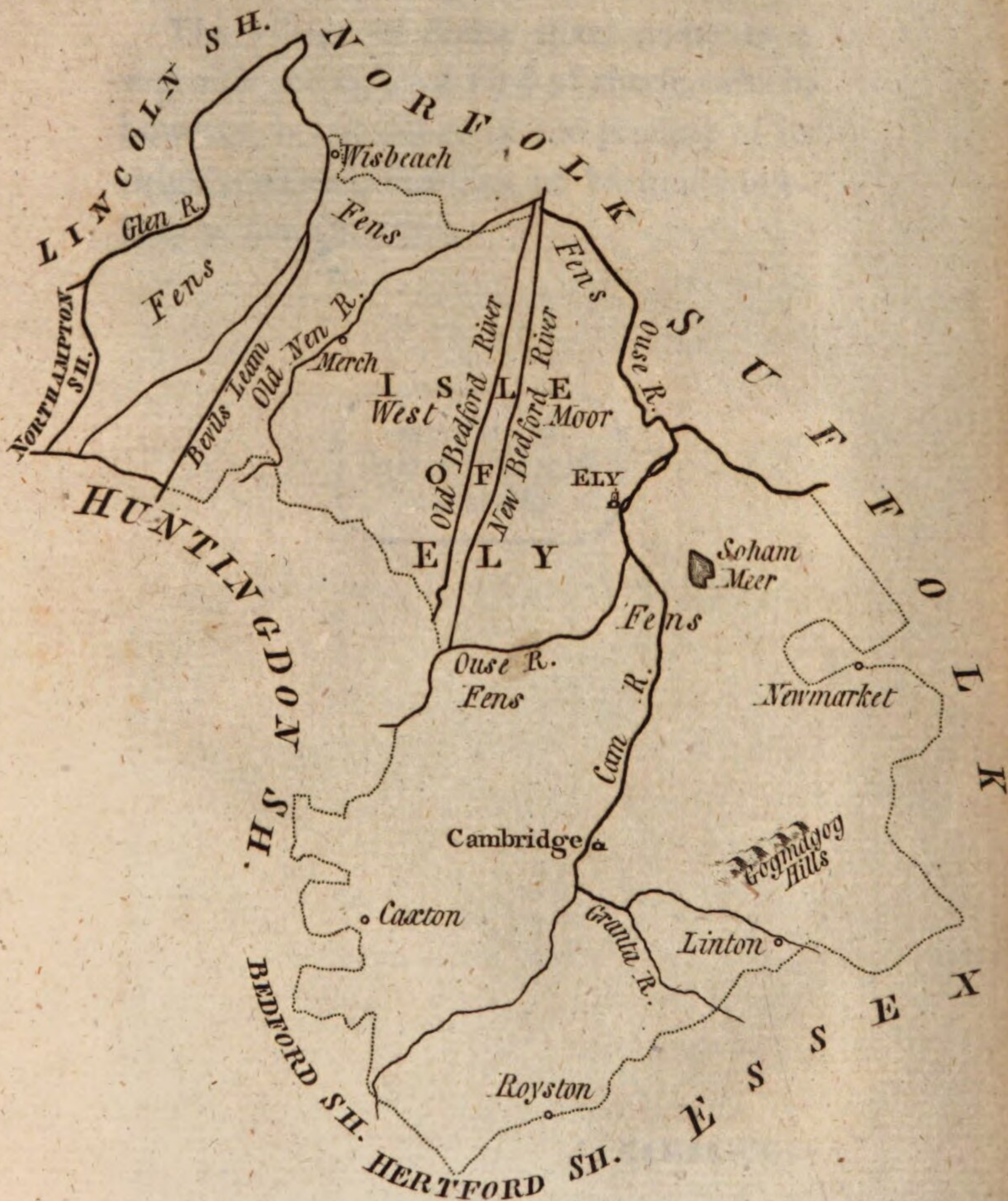
The village of *Stilton* gives name to a very rich and delicate kind of cheese, which, however, is said not to be the product of its neighbourhood, but that of Melton-Mowbray in Leicestershire.



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# CAMBRIDGE SHIRE.





## CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

THIS county has to the north-west Lincolnshire; to the north-east Norfolk; to the east Suffolk; to the south Essex and Hertfordshire; to the west Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire, and a point of Northamptonshire. Its limits, for all the northern half, are rivers and their communicating branches, so intermixed as with difficulty to be traced: the southern half has an indented and undistinguished boundary line on the adjacent counties. Its figure somewhat resembles that of the human ear, the county of Huntingdon cutting deeply into its western side by a circular projection. Its greatest length is near fifty miles: its breadth, at the southern and widest extremity, above twenty-five.

Cambridgeshire is divided into two parts by the river Ouse. The most northerly is chiefly composed of the *isle of Ely*, a separate district,



district, possessing jurisdiction within itself. This is a fenny tract, in which a few elevated spots appear scattered, like islands, in the midst of low and level marshes. The principal of these is that on which the city of Ely is placed. All the low grounds are naturally a bog, formed by the stagnation of water from the overflowing rivers of this tract; but, by infinite labour and expence in cutting drains and raising banks, much of them has been rendered either rich meadows, proper for the fattening of cattle, or arable land, covered especially with some of the finest oats in the kingdom. The principal of the drains are the *Bedford old and new rivers*, which run navigable in a straight line upwards of twenty miles across the county, from the great to the little Ouse. Of this work Dyer gives the following poetical account:

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*Bedford Level, erst*

A dreary pathless waste, the coughing flock  
Was wont with hairy fleeces to deform;  
And, smiling with her lure of summer-flowers,

The



The heavy ox, vain-struggling, to ingulph;  
Till one of that high honour'd patriot name,  
*Russel*, arose, who drain'd the rushy fen,  
Confin'd the waves, bid groves and gardens bloom,  
And, through his new creation, led the Ouse  
And gentle Camus, silver-winding streams.

FLEECE.

The general nature and products of the Ely fens are the same with those of Lincolnshire, which they join. Their air and water are bad; and though the soil is rich, and in dry years very productive, they are still subject to frequent inundations; and the farmer is occasionally liable to lose all the labour of his year. The fenny country extends south of the Ouse, and even runs up to the neighbourhood of Cambridge.

The south-western part of the county is the most agreeable, being raised in its surface, and watered by the *Cam*, a small river, rising in Hertfordshire, which, after washing Cambridge, near which town it receives the *Granta*, falls into the Ouse above Ely. Much fine barley grows in these parts,  
which



which is malted, and exported in large quantities. *Cottenham*, near Cambridge, is celebrated for a sort of large thin cheeses made there and in the neighbouring villages. Its superiority is not owing to any particular management in the dairies, but to the nature of the herbage on the commons. The suckling of calves for the London market is also carried on there to advantage. The butter of Cambridge is peculiarly excellent.

The south-eastern part, from *Gogmagog-bills* to Newmarket, is an open and heathy country, thinly inhabited and bleak, being connected with that vast tract of land, which, extending southwards into Essex, and northwards across Suffolk into Norfolk, forms one of the largest plains in the kingdom. The soil here is lean and gravelly. The best parts produce light crops of barley; but much of it is only used as sheep-walks. The kinds of sheep kept here are chiefly the Norfolk and West-country. In some of the parishes on the borders of Essex saffron is cultivated. At *Cherry-binton* at the foot  
of



of the Gogmagog-hills, are great chalk pits, noted for the marine productions they contain, and for the many rare plants growing in their vicinity.

*Cambridge*, the capital of the county, is a populous but ill-built town; rendered however sufficiently famous by its University to dispense with other distinctions. This ancient seminary of learning, inferior in extent and opulence to Oxford, but its rival in literary fame, contains sixteen colleges and halls, and many public edifices, of antique and modern construction. The numerous objects of curiosity in this University, and the great characters it has produced, would furnish ample matter for a volume, and therefore cannot be properly touched upon here.

The town carries on a considerable trade by means of its navigable river. Near it is annually held one of the greatest fairs in England for all sorts of commodities, called *Stourbridge* or *Sturbich fair*, under the jurisdiction of the University.

The



The city of *Ely* is a mean place, and chiefly remarkable for its fine cathedral. The bishop exercises temporal jurisdiction over the city and in the isle, much in the same manner as the bishop of Durham in his diocese. *Ely*, and its district, from its situation, has frequently held out a long time against foreign and domestic foes; and particularly was the last place in the kingdom which submitted to William the Conqueror. Much garden stuff is produced here, and sent to the towns around. The barley grown around it is of a superior quality. The white bricks made at *Ely* are celebrated, and a large quantity of coarse pottery is made of the same clay.

*Wisbeach* is a well-built town, possessing a considerable trade in the export of corn, and of oil pressed from seeds at mills in its neighbourhood. Only barges can come up its river, larger vessels stopping six miles below.

*Newmarket*, situated partly in this county, and partly in Suffolk, is the most celebrated place in England for horse races, for which



its extensive and finely turfed heath is peculiarly adapted. Charles II. built a feat here for the sake of this diversion. At the different stables in the town are constantly kept numbers of the fleetest horses in the world, trained and exercised for the course. The farmers around make great advantage of their oats and hay from the demand which this creates.



## N O R F O L K.

THIS county is terminated on the north and north-east by the German ocean; on the south and south-east by Suffolk; on the west by the Lincolnshire Washes, and by part of that county and of Cambridgeshire. It is almost entirely insulated by the sea, and by the rivers which form its internal boundary. Its figure is very compact, presenting an almost unbroken convexity to the ocean, and a convex line, somewhat indented, to the land; thus forming a pretty exact oval, of which the diameter from north to south measures forty-five miles; that from east to west about seventy.

The face of the country in this large space varies less than in most tracts of equal extent in the kingdom. Not a single hill of moderate height is to be seen in the whole county; yet, in many parts, its surface is broken into gentle swells and depressions.

At





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NORFOLK.





At the western extremity, adjoining the counties of Cambridge and Lincoln, is a considerable tract of flat fenny land; and on the east, near Yarmouth, a narrow tract of marshes runs from the sea to some distance up the country. Some marsh land likewise lies upon the northern coast, near Cley. Several of the western hundreds from Thetford northwards, are open and bare, consisting of extensive heaths, the soil of which is a light sand or hungry gravel. The rest of the county in general is arable land, varying in its degrees of fertility. To the north-east, the soil is a light sandy loam, fertile and remarkably easy of tillage. The south-east has a moister and deeper soil. The middle and south abound in clay; and various parts yield chalk and marl. The proportion of arable land is larger than in most counties, being computed at two thirds of the whole. The northern and eastern parts are all enclosed, and being richer in timber than most of the maritime parts of the island, afford many cheerful and pleasant

O



fant views, though none very extensive or romantic.

The products of the county vary according to the soil and situation. The lighter arable lands produce barley in great plenty, much of which is malted and exported. Wheat is cultivated in the stronger soils. But the article for which Norfolk is particularly celebrated is turnips, which are more generally grown here than in any other part of the kingdom, and form the basis of the Norfolk husbandry. The peculiar excellence of this culture is, that the ground never lies fallow, as the turnips serve to prepare it for corn. This root is principally used for the fattening of cattle, of which great numbers, bred in Scotland and other parts, are fed in this county for the London and country markets. Crops of clover or other artificial grasses are generally taken alternately with the turnips. Much buckwheat is also grown in the light soils of Norfolk, and used for feeding swine and poultry.

The



The fenny parts yield great quantities of butter, which is sent to London under the name of Cambridge butter. The sheep of Norfolk are a hardy, active, and rather small breed, and much valued for their mutton. Their wool is chiefly used in the Yorkshire cloths. Great numbers of the lambs are sold out of the county. Turkeys are reared here to a larger size than elsewhere, and form a considerable object of profit to the smaller farmers. Rabbits are extremely numerous on the sandy heaths in various parts. This county is likewise celebrated for game, especially pheasants, which abound in some manors where they are preserved, so as to prove a great nuisance to the farmer.

No greater proof of the industry and good husbandry of Norfolk need be produced, than an estimate of the value of the several articles of its own growth which it sends out of the county. By a calculation as exact as could be formed, the exported grain of various kinds, flour, and malt, are of the annual value of more than £.900,000, and

O 2

that



that of the other provision articles (reckoning only the profit of *fattening* foreign bred cattle), and of the wool, is about £.225,000 more. The value of manufactures and fisheries is not included in this estimate. It is moreover to be considered that the county in general is far from being naturally one of the most fertile.

The principal rivers of Norfolk are, the *Great Ouse*; which, after forming a part of its south-western boundary, crosses the western side, and falls into the sea below Lynn.

The *Nen*, forming the western boundary, and emptying into the Lincolnshire Wash. It communicates by several channels with the Ouse.

The *Little Ouse* rises about the middle of the Suffolk border; and separating the two counties as it flows westward, empties itself into the Great Ouse. It is navigable from Thetford.

The source of the *Waveney* is separated from that of the Ouse only by a causeway. It runs in a contrary direction; and, forming  
the



the rest of the Suffolk boundary, at length joins the Yare a little above Yarmouth. It is navigable from Bungay.

The *Yare*, rising near Attleborough, joins the *Wensum* and other small streams at and near Norwich, and, becoming navigable there, flows to Yarmouth; and, having received the Waveney and Bure, discharges itself into the German ocean below that town.

The *Bure*, joined by other streams from the north-east, meets the Yare in Yarmouth. It is navigable up its several branches to Aylsham, North Walsham, and other places.

Of these small rivers it may be observed, that, flowing through a nearly level country, their streams are slow, and they frequently diffuse themselves over the lower tracts in their course, forming shallow lakes, here called *Broads*, which are plentifully stored with fish and water-fowl. On some of them are decoys for wild-ducks. The rivers are easily rendered navigable, and much resemble canals.



The sea-coast of Norfolk is formed either by clayey cliffs, continually a prey to the ocean, or by low sandy shores, covered with loose pebbles (called *shingle*) and frequently rising into a kind of natural bank composed of sand held together by the root of the sea-reed-grass. Behind these sand hills are in various parts salt marshes of considerable extent, occasionally inundated by the tides, which find entrance through gaps between the hillocks. *Hunstanton cliff* at the mouth of the Wash, is the only rocky eminence on the coast. Various small ports are made on the northern side by creeks and little bays, but they can only admit small vessels, and are continually filling up with sand. Banks of sand lie off at sea from the Norfolk coast in various parts, which are the dread of the coasting mariners, and occasion frequent shipwrecks. Of these, the most remarkable, running parallel to the coast of Yarmouth, form the celebrated *Yarmouth roads*, a great resort for shipping, which ride there securely, though the entrance is difficult and hazardous.

The



The county of Norfolk has long been one of the best peopled tracts in England, which is proved by the number of its parishes, exceeding that of every other county in the kingdom, though in size it is only about the eighth. Its large towns, however, are few, as its manufactures and trade are confined to a small space.

The city of *Norwich* is one of the most populous in England, and long took the lead in point of consequence among the inland towns. For this it was indebted to its great manufactory of crapes, bombazines, and stuffs of various kinds, which is still considerable, though somewhat declined on account of the rivalship of the cotton branches, and in consequence of prohibitions in foreign countries. The present staple articles of the Norwich trade are fine camlets, worsted-damasks, and flowered satins. Its shawls have lately had a great sale. The manufacture is confined to the city; but the operations of spinning and preparing the wool employ the poor of most of the small towns



and villages in the county. The wool used is brought from the counties of Lincoln, Leicester, and Northampton. The goods are sent to various parts of the world, particularly Holland, Germany, Russia, and the Mediterranean. Many of them are shipped at Yarmouth; and many are sent to London and other places by land. Norwich contains many opulent inhabitants and good buildings, but its streets are narrow and ill disposed, and its proportion of poor is uncommonly great. It abounds with parish churches, and has several remains of antiquity, though not of an early date.

*Yarmouth* has long been known as one of the principal sea-ports in England; and though from the fluctuation of trade several newer ones have outstripped it in business, it still retains considerable consequence in its double capacity of a port and a fishing town. By means of its rivers it enjoys all the import and export trade of Norwich, and various places on that side of Norfolk and Suffolk. To them it conveys coal, timber,  
and



and foreign products; and by its means are exported their corn and malt in vast quantities, and their manufactured goods. Its harbour will not admit ships of large burthen, but is extremely convenient for business, the vessels lying in the river along a very extensive and beautiful quay. The foreign trade of this port is chiefly to the Baltic, Holland, Portugal, and the Mediterranean. It also sends ships to the Greenland fishery. The home fishing is carried on at two seasons; that for mackerel in May and June, and that for herring in October and November. The latter is the most considerable; and, besides the boats belonging to the town, many cobs from the Yorkshire coast, hired for the purpose, are employed in it. The mackerel are sent either up the country by land carriage, or to London by sea. The herrings are chiefly cured here by salting and then drying in wood smoke; when, under the name of *red herrings*, they are either consumed at home, or exported to Spain, Italy, and other southern



southern countries. Yarmouth is much frequented in the season as a place for sea-bathing.

The other great inlet and outlet to this county is *Lynn*, or *King's Lynn*, at the mouth of the Ouse, a populous and flourishing place, which, notwithstanding a bad harbour, carries on a large trade by means of its inland communications. By the Ouse, and its associated rivers, it supplies most of the midland counties with coals, timber, and wine; and in return exports corn and malt in very great quantities. It also partakes in the Greenland fishery. Its annual *mart*, or fair, is much resorted to by the country round. The air of *Lynn* is unwholesome on account of its vicinity to the fens.

The ports on the northern side of the county are *Blakeney* and *Cley*, on the same creek, and *Wells* at a small distance. From these are exported considerable quantities of corn and malt produced in the neighbourhood, and coals and other articles are imported.

*Thetford,*



*Thetford*, now an inconsiderable town, was once a bishoprick, and still exhibits the ruins of its former greatness. It has some corn trade to Lynn. Upon the wide naked heaths in its neighbourhood are sometimes to be met with flocks of the bustard, a bird now become very rare in England.

This county, with the eastern ones in general, was the scene of many military transactions and ravages in the times of the Danish incursions; but had fortunately little share in the disastrous events of more modern times. One of its most remarkable occurrences in the later reigns was the insurrection of the oppressed peasants headed by one Kett, in the time of Edward VI. This rose to so formidable a height, that an army was found necessary to quell it, which defeated the insurgents with great slaughter on Mousehold heath, near Norwich.



## S U F F O L K.

THIS county has on the north Norfolk; on the east the German ocean; on the south Essex; on the west Cambridgeshire. The rivers Waveney and Little Ouse form its northern limits; and the Stour, almost the whole of its southern. To the north-west it is bounded by the Larke and another small stream; the rest of its western limit is undistinguishable. In shape it is somewhat like a crescent, being hollowed in the middle of its northern side by Norfolk, and rising at each end of that side, especially the eastern, where it forms a hook running up to Yarmouth. Its diameter from north to south is about thirty miles; from east to west fifty-eight.

Suffolk is in general a level country, without any considerable eminences. In respect to soil it may be divided into three portions. The sea-coast, to some distance inland, is  
for





SUFFOLK.



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for the most part sandy, and is distributed into arable land, heaths, and marshes. The arable produces excellent barley; and towards the south-east great quantities of carrots are grown. The heaths afford extensive sheep-walks; and the marshes feed numbers of cattle. The soil has in many parts been much improved by shell-marl, (called here *crag*) of which vast beds have been discovered, particularly in the neighbourhood of Woodbridge. The sea shore is chiefly composed of loamy cliffs, which are continually falling down, undermined by the waves. Hence great changes have been effected on this coast; and some towns, once considerable, as *Dunwich* and *Aldborough*, have been almost washed away by the sea. About Orfordness there are various salt-water creeks and inlets, which form extensive marshes.

The internal and largest part of the county, from north to south, and across quite to the south-west angle, is in general a strong clayey loam, fertile to a great degree in all  
the



the objects of husbandry. A part of it, called *high Suffolk*, has a soil so stiff and tenacious, that its roads in wet seasons are scarcely passable. The great product of this tract is butter, which is exported to London and other parts in great quantities. Much cheese too is made here; but, as it is only supplementary to the butter, it has gained, almost proverbially, the character of the worst in England. Besides grain of all sorts, beans are grown abundantly in the middle parts of Suffolk; and quantities of cabbages are raised for the food of cows. Hemp is likewise cultivated to a considerable extent, and spun and woven on the spot into cloth of various degrees of fineness. Some hops are grown in the vicinity of Stow-market.

The north-western portion of Suffolk is an open sandy country, and forms a considerable part of the wide tract of barren heath which occupies so much of this quarter of the kingdom. It is chiefly in warrens and sheep-walks, but interspersed with poor arable land. The extreme angle, bordering on the Ely fens, partakes of their nature.

On



On the whole, this county is one of the most thriving with respect to agriculture, and its farmers are opulent and skilful. The culture of turnips prevails here almost as much as in Norfolk. They have a very excellent breed of draught horses, middle sized, and remarkably short-made, capable of vast exertions. The Suffolk cows are supposed to give more milk in proportion to their size than any other in England. They are of the hornless or polled kind. The sheep, of which large flocks are kept, are chiefly of the Norfolk breed.

Of the rivers in Suffolk, the *Waveney* and *Little Ouse* have been mentioned under Norfolk.

The *Stour* on the southern boundary is the most considerable, rising on the western border, and, after passing Sudbury and Manningtree, falling into the sea at Harwich. Just at its mouth it meets the *Orwell*, an arm of the sea running up to Ipswich; at which town it receives the *Gipping*, a small river rising in the centre of the county, above Stow-market.



The *Deben* rises near Debenham, and flows to Woodbridge, where it expands into a long narrow arm of the sea, and enters the ocean a very little to the north of Harwich-haven.

The *Larke*, rising in the south-west, runs by Bury, becoming navigable a mile below that town; and, passing Mildenhall, joins the Great Ouse near the north-west angle of the county.

Suffolk was formerly as distinguished for its trade and manufactures, as for its agriculture; but these have for many years been on the decline.

One of the first seats of the Flemings, who were brought over by Edward III. to teach the English the art of manufacturing their own wool, was *Sudbury*; and the town, in consequence, became very populous and opulent. Its trade is now in great part diverted into other channels, having left behind it the burthen of a numerous poor. However, many kinds of thin stuffs are still made here; particularly says, bunting for



navy colours, and burial crapes. Some of the neighbouring towns, especially *Needham-market* and *Lavenham*, participate in this manufacture; and the poor throughout the whole county are employed in making worsted yarn. The manufactured goods are chiefly sent to London.

*Ipswich*, the county town, is a place of great antiquity, but declined from its former consequence. Its manufactures of broad cloth and canvas are at an end; and its present commerce chiefly depends upon the malting and exportation of corn. It has a considerable coasting trade and a small share of foreign commerce, and has lately sent ships to Greenland. Vessels of large burthen are obliged to stop some distance below the town. *Ipswich* is populous and well inhabited, though irregularly built.

*Woodbridge* is a small port, possessing a share of the coasting trade. Fine salt is made here; and much lime is burned from fossil sea-shells.

*Southwold* also makes a salt much esteemed,



teemed, and has an exportation of corn. Its bay, commonly called Solebay, was the scene of a great sea-fight in 1672, between the Dutch commanded by De Ruyter, and the English by the Duke of York, in which victory remained undecided.

*Lowestoffe*, built on a cliff above the sea at the most easterly point of Great Britain, largely partakes with Yarmouth in the mackerel and herring fisheries; and is considerably frequented as a place for sea-bathing. A manufactory of coarse china is established here.

On the western side of the county lies the handsome town of *St. Edmund's Bury*, a sort of capital to the many genteel families residing in that neighbourhood. It is a place of great antiquity, and possessed an extremely wealthy abbey, of which some fine remains are yet extant. The present trade of Bury consists in making worsted yarn. It has a great annual fair, at which large quantities of various commodities are sold.



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## E S S E X.

ON the north this county is bounded by Suffolk, separated from it by the river Stour, and by a part of Cambridgeshire; on the west by the counties of Hertford and Middlesex, the last separated by the river Lea; on the south by the Thames, flowing betwixt it and Kent; and on the east by the ocean. Its figure is irregularly quadrangular: its maritime side in particular being indented and uneven. Its greatest length is forty-eight miles; its greatest breadth fifty-four.

Essex is the most southern of the three counties on the eastern coast, which together form a tame continued tract of vast extent, undistinguished by any considerable eminence or ridge, but in general sufficiently elevated to be dry and arable, and rich in the various products of agriculture. The road from London to Norwich by New-



market, which passes along the western sides of Essex and Suffolk to the middle of Norfolk, a distance of one hundred and eight miles, is more level and unvaried in its surface than any tract of ground of equal length in the kingdom.

Essex possesses, however, a variety of soil and face of country. Its south-western part is chiefly occupied by *Epping-forest* and its several branches. A rivulet, the *Roddon*, running parallel to the Lea, fertilizes this part of the county, which is famous for its butter, sold for a high price in London under the name of Epping butter.

Northwards the country becomes more open and uneven. *Saffron Walden*, in this part, by its name, shows the product for which it is famous. Saffron, which was formerly cultivated in various parts of the kingdom, is now grown almost solely between this place and Cambridge, in a circuit of about ten miles. A rich light soil and dry country is peculiarly adapted to this plant. The English saffron has always been in high estimation.

Another



Another singular product of this county is a kind of treble crop of coriander, carraway, and teasle; the two former on account of their aromatic seeds; the latter, for its prickly heads, used for the purpose of raising the nap in woollen cloths. These are all sown together, but come to maturity at different periods, and the succession of the whole crop lasts three or four years.

The middle of Essex is in general a fine corn country, varied with gentle inequalities of surface, and sprinkled with woods. Towards the sea-coast it gradually declines into marshy grounds, broken by arms of the sea into islands, and frequently inundated. The fine pasturage which these tracts (commonly called the *Hundreds of Essex*) afford, scarcely compensates for their unwholesomeness, which is in a manner proverbial. The banks of the Thames, from the entrance of the Lea to the sea, are a similar tract of marshes. The farms in these parts are very large, and the farmers rich, and industrious to improve their grounds by manuring with



chalk, brought by sea from Kent. Numbers of calves are brought from all these parts of Essex to the London markets.

The northern part of the coast, between the Stour and Coln, which projects further than the rest, is a more elevated and healthy country. The proportion of waste land in the whole of Essex is very small; and the variety and goodness of its agricultural products are not exceeded by those of any other part of the kingdom.

The principal rivers properly belonging to this county are, the *Coln*, rising near Clare in Suffolk; and, after passing Colchester, emptying into a creek of the sea between Mersey island and the main. In the salt-water inlets and pools at the mouth of this river are bred the famous Colchester oysters, so well known as an article of commerce and luxury.

The *Black-water* takes its rise near Saffron Walden, and, flowing by Coggleshall and Witham, discharges itself at Maldon into an arm of the sea.

The



The *Chelmer*, springing near the same place, winds through the middle of the county, and, passing by Chelmsford, terminates at Maldon in the same mouth with the former.

The *Crouch*, after a short course on the south-eastern side, mixes with the sea among the marshes of Burnham and Foulness isle. The Walfleet and Burnham oysters are the product of its creeks and pits.

The *Roddon*, which enters the Thames near Barking, has been already mentioned.

The principal harbour on the Essex coast is that of *Harwich*, situated on a tongue of land opposite to the united mouths of the Stour and Orwell. It affords an occasional shelter to the coasting fleets continually passing along these shores, but has not much trade of its own. The principal business of Harwich arises from its being the station of the Holland packets which sail between it and Helvoetsluys. It has also a dock for the building of men of war. The entrance of the harbour is defended by a strong for-



trefs called *Landguard-fort*, built on a sandy point on the Suffolk side of the water.

South of Harwich is the *Naze*, a hooked promontory, enclosing a few low islands. From hence the land declines westward, forming the funnel, which terminates in the mouth of the Thames. Besides the creeks already noticed, there is one within the mouth of the Thames, running up by the town and small port of *Leigh*, and forming *Canvey* isle.

*Chelmsford*, the county town, is a place of moderate size, but containing nothing remarkable. The country round it is very fertile, and hops are cultivated near it.

*Colchester* is a town of great antiquity, and affords many relics of former grandeur. It is still a handsome well-peopled place, and retains a share of the manufacture of baize, for which it was once very famous. The other towns in Essex which chiefly participate in this manufacture are *Bocking*, *Brain-tree*, and *Coggeshall*. The wool of which they make use comes principally from Lincolnshire,



colnshire. The goods are exported to Spain, Portugal, and Italy, through the intervention of the London merchants. This trade is at present in a low state.

Colchester underwent a very obstinate siege in 1648, on occasion of an insurrection for the royal cause against the authority of the parliament, the gallant leaders of which, on its surrender, were executed.

Various actions with the Danes happened in this county, as well as in many others on the eastern coast. One of the most memorable was fought at *Assingdon*, or *Ashdown*, near Rochford, in which King Edmund Ironside was defeated with great slaughter by Canute.

*Tilbury-fort*, opposite Gravesend, is the principal protection of the Thames. In its neighbourhood queen Elizabeth reviewed the army she had assembled to oppose the famous Spanish armada in 1588.



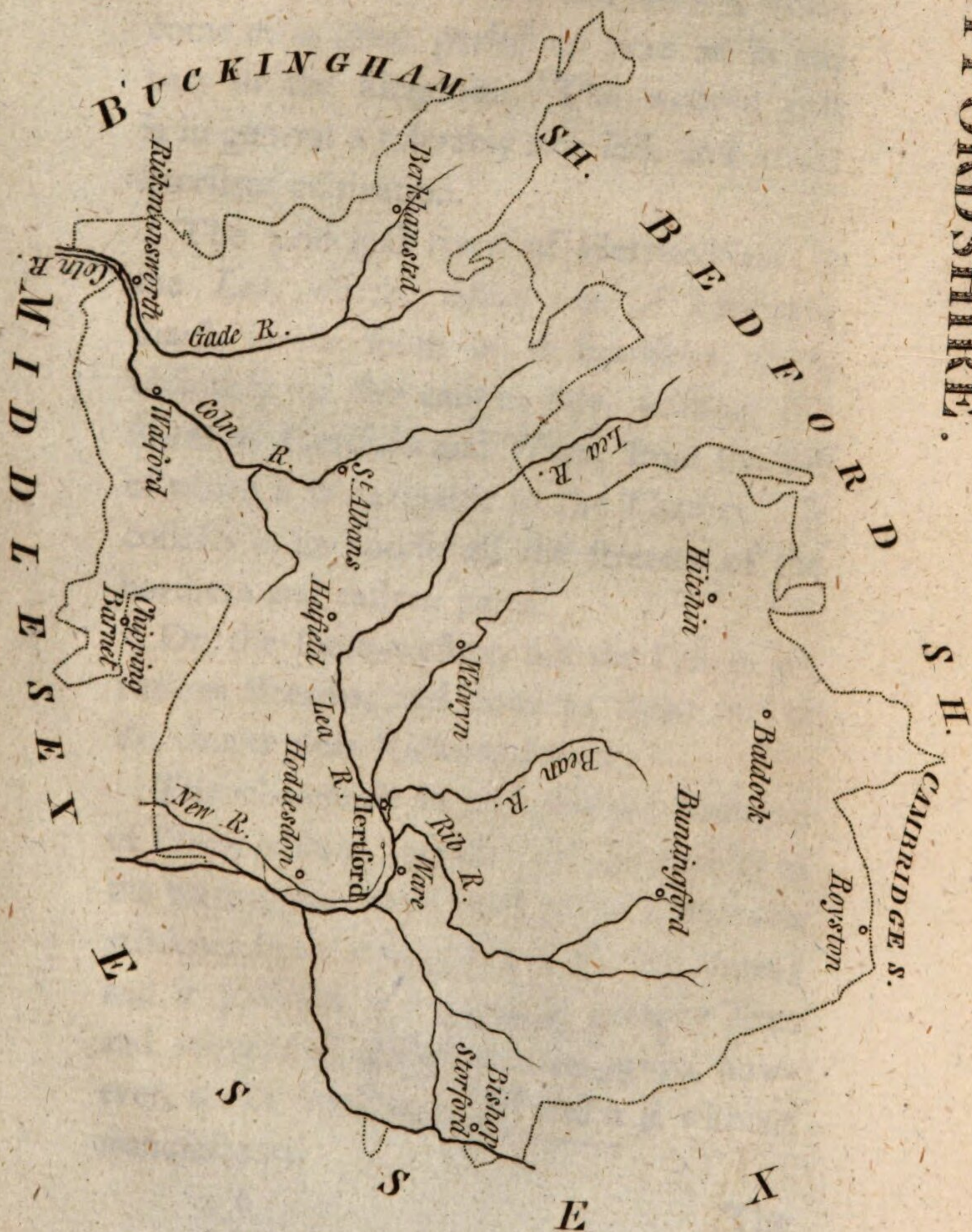
## HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE county of *Herts* has to the north Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire, to the west the latter county and Buckinghamshire, to the south Middlesex, and to the east Essex. Its boundaries are no where marked by nature, except where the river Lea separates it from Essex. Its shape is rendered extremely irregular by projections and indentations, especially on the western side. Its greatest length may be reckoned at twenty-five miles, and breadth at thirty-five.

The northern skirt of this county is hilly, forming a scattered part of the chalky ridge which extends across the kingdom in this direction. A number of streams take their rise from this side, which, by their clearness, shew the general nature of the soil to be inclined to hardness, and not abundantly rich. Flint stones are scattered in great profusion over the face of this county; and beds of chalk are frequently to be met with. It is found, however, with the aid  
of



# HERTFORDSHIRE.







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of proper culture, to be extremely favourable to corn, both wheat and barley, which come to as great perfection here as in any part of the kingdom. The western part is in general a tolerably rich soil, and under excellent cultivation.

The principal river of Hertfordshire is the *Lea*, which, rising out of Leagrave marsh in the south of Bedfordshire, flows obliquely to the eastern side, washing the towns of Hertford and Ware, from the last of which it is navigable to the Thames. It collects in its course all the streams of the northern and eastern parts.

On the south-western side the *Coln* unites various streams, and conveys them out of the county near Rickmansworth.

The wholesome air and pleasant situations of Hertfordshire, together with its vicinity to the metropolis, have rendered it a favourite residence both in ancient and modern times; and it possesses many capital country seats and remains of antiquity. Its towns, however, are of small account; and it is without manufactures.



The great business of the county is the traffic of corn and the malting trade; which last is carried on to a very large extent in the towns of *Hitchin*, *Baldock*, *Royston*, and *Ware*. The latter town sends a greater supply of malt to London than any other market. The Hertfordshire malt is not, however, all grown in the county; but large quantities of barley are purchased in all the surrounding ones, which, after being malted in these towns, is sent to London chiefly by the navigation of the Lea.

*Royston*, a pretty considerable town, is situated partly in Cambridgeshire, at the edge of the wide open plains before mentioned as extending through so many of the eastern counties. It has given its name to a species of crow called also the hooded or grey crow, which is a bird of passage in that neighbourhood, and also on the whole eastern coast.

*Hertford*, the county town, is a place of very little consequence.

*St. Alban's* is an ancient town of considerable size, but carrying on scarcely any other traffic than what results from its being the



the great thoroughfare from London to the north-west. Its abbey-church is a venerable edifice of vast magnitude. In and near this town were fought two battles in the bloody wars of York and Lancaster. That in 1455 was the first conflict between the parties, and terminated in favour of the Yorkists. The valiant Clifford and the great Earl of Somerset were slain in it, and the King (Henry VI.) taken prisoner. The second battle, in 1461, ended in a complete victory to Queen Margaret, at the head of the Lancastrians.

Close to St. Alban's are the vestiges of the ancient town *Verulam*, so considerable in the time of the Romans.

The field of *Barnet*, between St. Alban's and London, was also the scene of a bloody battle in those destructive wars of the two houses, which proved decisive in favour of Edward IV. his great foe, the king-making Earl of Warwick, being there slain. It was fought on Easter day in the year 1471.



## M I D D L E S E X.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Hertfordshire, on the west by Buckinghamshire, on the south by Surry and a corner of Kent, and on the east by Essex.

On three sides it has the natural limits of rivers; the Thames on the south, the Coln on the west, divided into several parallel and communicating streams, and the Lea on the east. Its general figure is quadrangular, but rendered very irregular on the southern side by the windings of the Thames, and on the northern by a hook-like projection into Hertfordshire. In size it is one of the least of the counties, measuring at the utmost only about twenty-two miles from east to west, and seventeen from north to south.

That part of Middlesex which borders on London is naturally a district of little fertility, its general soil being a lean gravel; though, by means of the vicinity of the metropolis,







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tropolis, many parts of it are converted into rich beds of manure, clothed with almost perpetual verdure. The more distant parts have a good deal of strong land, applicable to most purposes of husbandry; and the Thames is bordered by a continued tract of rich meadows. There are still several extensive tracts of uncultivated heath in this county; as that of *Hounslow* at the south-western part, and *Finchley-common* to the north of London. This last stretches to the borders of *Enfield-chase*, a large tract of wood-land stocked with deer, and continues nearly to Epping forest in Essex. The land in tillage is supposed to be about one fifth of the whole; and an equal proportion is occupied by nurseries, gardens, and pleasure grounds. The greater share of the county is in meadow and pasturage. The supply of London with milk is an object to which the greatest part of the land in its immediate vicinity is devoted. The number of cows kept for that purpose is computed at 6000. The production of hay for the London market



market is the principal object of the farmers at a more remote distance. A considerable quantity of ground is cut up for the making of bricks, to the great profit of the owner, though to the nuisance of the neighbours. Of other economical objects pursued in this county, may be mentioned the feeding of house lambs as a luxury in the winter months. These are always the product of Dorsetshire ewes, which are made to lamb about Michaelmas. The cultivation of willows on the banks of the Thames from Fulham to Staines for the use of the basket makers, is another article of considerable profit.

Besides the boundary rivers already mentioned, Middlesex is watered by several small streams, one of which, called the *New-river*, is artificially brought from Amwell, near Ware, in Hertfordshire, for the purpose of supplying London with water, in the pipes and cisterns of which vast city it may be said to terminate. A considerable number and variety of mineral waters  
have



have been found in the neighbourhood of London.

The whole county of Middlesex may be considered as a sort of demesne to the metropolis, being covered with its villas, intersected by the innumerable roads leading to it, and laid out in gardens, pastures, and enclosures of all sorts for its convenience and support. It swarms with people in its numerous and extensive villages; but no large towns can exist in the neighbourhood of that which attracts people so strongly from the whole nation.

To attempt any description, however slight, of such a place as *London*, would be inconsistent with a plan, the whole of which is comprised in a small volume. It will be sufficient to point out some of the peculiarities of its situation, and the general causes which have raised it to such immense bulk and opulence.

The united cities of LONDON and WESTMINSTER are situated on a gentle declivity on the northern bank of the *Thames*; the  
Q bending



bending course of which river they follow for the space of some miles. On the opposite bank, upon more level and naturally marshy ground, lies the borough of Southwark, bordering the river still farther than London does. The broad stream of the Thames flowing between, continually agitated by a brisk current, or a rapid tide, brings constant supplies of fresh air, which no buildings can intercept. The country round, especially on the London side, is nearly open to some distance, whence, by the action of the sun and wind on a gravelly soil, it is kept tolerably dry in all seasons, and affords no lodgment for stagnant air or water. The cleanliness of London, as well as its supply of water, are greatly aided by its situation on the banks of the Thames; and the New-river, together with many good springs within the city itself, further contribute to the abundance of that necessary element. All these are advantages, with respect to *health*, in which this metropolis is exceeded by few.



Its situation with regard to the circumstance of *navigation* is equally well chosen: had it been placed lower on the Thames, besides being annoyed by the marshes, it would have been more liable to insults from foreign foes: had it been higher, it would not have been accessible, as at present, to ships of large burthen. It now possesses every advantage that can be derived from a sea-port, without its dangers; and at the same time, by means of its noble river, enjoys a very extensive communication with the internal parts of the country, which supply it with all sorts of necessaries, and in return receive from it such commodities as they require. With the great article of fuel London is plentifully supplied by sea from the northern collieries; and to this circumstance the nation is indebted for a great nursery of seamen not depending upon foreign commerce; which is a principal source of its naval superiority. Corn and various other articles are with equal ease conveyed to it from all the maritime parts



of the kingdom, and great numbers of coasting vessels are continually employed for this purpose.

London therefore unites in itself all the benefits arising from navigation and commerce, with those of a metropolis at which all the public business of a great nation is transacted; and is at the same time the mercantile and political head of these kingdoms. It is also the seat of many considerable manufactures; some almost peculiar to itself, as ministering to the demands of studied splendour and refined luxury; others in which it participates with the manufacturing towns in general, with this difference, that only the finer and more costly of their works are performed here. The most important of its peculiar manufactures is the silk weaving, established in Spital-fields by refugees from France. A variety of works in gold, silver, and jewellery; the engraving of prints; the making of optical and mathematical instruments, are likewise principally or solely executed here, and some  
of



of them in greater perfection than in any other country. The porter-brewery, a business of very great extent, is also chiefly carried on in London. To its port are likewise confined some branches of foreign commerce, as the vast East India trade, and those to Turkey and Hudson's Bay.

Thus London has risen to its present rank of the first city in Europe with respect to opulence; and nearly, if not entirely so, as to number of inhabitants. Paris and Constantinople may dispute the latter with it. Its population, like that of all other towns, has been greatly over-rated, and is not yet exactly determined; but it is probable that the residents in London, Westminster, Southwark, and all the out-parishes, scarcely exceed 600,000.

The style of building, both public and private, in this metropolis, is rather formed upon the plan of neatness and convenience than of splendour and magnificence. No capital contains proportionally fewer palaces, and none so many good houses. Of the



public edifices, St. Paul's church, the Bank, Somerset buildings, and two of the bridges, are almost the only ones that have pretensions to grandeur and beauty united. The streets in the old parts of the towns are, for the most part, ill laid out, and frequently narrow; but the new streets and squares are planned and built with great regularity and elegance. The paving and lighting of the whole are admirable.

The market towns in Middlesex afford nothing remarkable.

At *Brentford*, where the *Brent* enters the Thames, King Edmund Ironside defeated the Danes drawn off from the siege of London, and drove them across the river. To this place also King Charles I. advanced after the battle of Edgehill, and gave a hot alarm to the metropolis. The banks of the Thames from hence to London are almost entirely laid out in gardens and nursery grounds, for the supply of the capital.

The royal palace of *Hampton-court* on the Thames, originally built by Cardinal  
Wolsey,



Wolsey, and a favourite residence of King William, is now almost deserted.

At *Kensington* is also a royal palace, chiefly remarkable for its gardens.

*Chelsea* is distinguished by its spacious hospital for superannuated and disabled soldiers.



## S U R R Y.

THIS county has to the north Middlesex and a point of Buckinghamshire, from both which it is separated by the Thames; to the west Berkshire and Hampshire; to the south Suffex, and to the east Kent. Its shape is a pretty regular oblong, except the northern side, which is deeply indented by the windings of the Thames. Its greatest length is about twenty-seven miles, and breadth thirty-seven.

Surry has been compared to a piece of coarse cloth with a fine border; its circumference being in general fertile, but its middle parts barren. On the banks of the Thames it has a range of beautiful meadows, interspersed with numerous villas and pleasure grounds. Across the middle of the county, from east to west, runs a ridge of irregular hills, abounding in chalk, intermixed with wide open downs and sandy heaths. The *Banstead downs* in the eastern  
part



# SURREY.





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part of this tract are noted for feeding the sweetest mutton. Dyer, describing the situations most favourable for the sheep, says,

Such are the downs of Banstead, edged with woods  
And towery villas.

FLEECE.

Close to these is *Epsom-warren*, a celebrated race-ground; near which a well-known mineral purging spring arises.

Further on is *Box-hill*, covered with the largest box-trees in England, and affording a beautiful prospect. The *White downs*, so called from their chalky soil, are just in the centre of the county.

The same hilly and naked grounds appear towards the north-western corner, where *Bagshot-heath* and the adjacent commons extend. All these parts, however, afford intervals of fertile and well-cultivated vales. A newly undertaken canal from Basingstoke in Hampshire to the river Wey, will cross this tract, and is expected to contribute greatly to the improvement of the barren heaths.

Immediately



Immediately beneath the hills to the south and east lies *Holms-dale*, a rough and woody tract, extending into Kent, in which red deer are still found. It is said to take its name from the holm-oak with which it abounds.

The southern skirt of the county is well watered, and finely varied with wood, arable and pasture.

On the whole, the proportion of waste land in Surry is large, amounting to one sixth. There are, besides, many open commons capable of much improvement.

The principal river of this county is the *Wey*, which rises in Hampshire, and, after passing Guildford, flows on to the Thames, which it joins near Chertsey. It turns many paper and corn mills for the use of the metropolis. Pope, in his Windsor-forest, characterizes this river as the

——*chalky Wey*, that rolls a milky wave.

The *Mole*, springing in the borders of Suffex, flows through the centre of the county



county to join the Thames a little below the former. This river, near Box-hill, sinks under ground, and appears again, entirely or in part, in a full stream at the distance of two or three miles. Hence the same poet calls it

The sudden Mole that hides his diving flood.

Numerous rivulets from the west and south join the Wey; and from the south-east the Mole.

The *Wandle* or *Vandal*, a small stream which rises at Croydon, and enters the Thames at Wandsworth, is remarkable for the great works for callico printing which are established on its banks.

With respect to the traffic and products of this county, all that part of it which lies nearest London is devoted to the pleasure and supply of the inhabitants of the metropolis. Some of the most delightful villas round London are on the Surry banks of the Thames. *Richmond*, which possesses a royal seat, affords from its hill a prospect of rural elegance



elegance and beauty unrivalled in the kingdom. *Kew*, adjoining to it, is also an occasional residence of the royal family, and has a very complete botanical garden.

The villages of *Putney*, *Wandsworth*, *Battersea*, &c. on the river, cultivate vast quantities of vegetables for the London markets.

The remoter parts grow corn and the other usual products of farming countries. The rearing of house lambs for the London market is pursued to a large extent by some of the farmers. Hops are cultivated with great success on the western border.

The *borough of Southwark* is the principal place for populousness and traffic in this county; but it has been already mentioned as composing a part of London. It is particularly concerned in the vast business carried on upon the Thames, both above and below bridge. Its neighbourhood abounds in works of various kinds belonging to the manufactures and trades of the metropolis.

*Guildford* is properly the county town. It is handsomely built, and pleasantly situated.

The



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*Kingston upon Thames* is a handsome and genteel town, at which the assizes are held alternately with Guildford.

*Dorking* is noted for its large breed of fowls, which, with other poultry, it sends to the London markets. Its neighbourhood abounds in beautiful and romantic prospects, and gentlemen's seats.

Between Egham and Stains is the famous *Runnymede*, a meadow on the Thames,

Where England's ancient barons, clad in arms,  
And stern with conquest, from their tyrant king,  
Then rendered tame, did challenge and secure  
The charter of her freedom. AKENSIDE.

This great event of King John's signing *Magna Charta* happened in the year 1216.



## K E N T.

THE county of Kent is bounded on the north by the Thames, first flowing between it and Essex, and then expanding into an extensive kind of bay, reaching to the coast of Suffolk; on the east and south-east by the German ocean and straits of Dover; on the south by Sussex; and on the west by Surry. It is of an irregularly oblong figure, measuring from east to west about fifty-eight miles, from north to south about thirty-six miles.

In this large space there is considerable diversity of soil and face of country. The banks of the Thames are low and marshy, but backed by a range of chalky eminences, sometimes rising to a moderate height. This kind of hard chalky soil, inclining to barrenness, extends to the north eastern extremity of the county, and thence round to Dover, exhibiting its nature in the lofty  
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# KENT.





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ESSAY





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white cliffs, which here bound the island, and produce that striking appearance from sea which gave it the ancient name of *Albion*. Two chains of hills run through the middle of Kent, called the upper and lower hills. The northern range is composed principally of chalk and flints: the southern of iron and ragstone. On the Surry border clay and gravel prevail on the eminences.

The southern part of Kent, called the *Weald*, is a flat woody tract, of a clayey soil; fruitful, but unwholesome on account of its moisture. It terminates in the great marsh of Romney. It is in this part particularly that the opulence of the farmers has given the proverbial appellation of the wealthy Kentish yeomen.

The midland and western districts are a happy mixture of hill and vale, arable and pasture, equal in pleasantness and variety of products to any part of England.

Kent produces, besides the usual objects of agriculture, large quantities of hops, by which the London breweries are almost solely supplied;



supplied; fruit of various kinds, especially cherries, filberts and apples, of which are large orchards for supplying the London markets; madder for dying; timber in the woody parts, and birch twigs for brooms, which form no small article of commerce for the use of the metropolis.

The principal river of Kent, besides the Thames, is the *Medway*, which, coming down from Suffex, and joined by many rivulets from the Weald, crosses this county by Maidstone and Rochester, and falls into the mouth of the Thames between the isles of Shepey and Grain.

The *Stour*, a small stream rising in the Weald, flows by Canterbury, and empties itself into the sea below Sandwich.

The *Rother*, from Suffex, forms the limit between the two counties for a small space, and then joins the sea at Rye.

In surveying the numerous places in Kent which deserve notice, we shall proceed down the Thames, and thence along the sea-coast.

*Deptford,*



*Deptford*, a very populous village, containing a royal dock-yard and arsenal, as well as several large private docks, is the first place in this county visited by the Thames.

Then succeeds *Greenwich*, a considerable town, distinguished by its royal park and observatory, and still more by its noble hospital for maimed and decayed seamen, which is one of the grandest edifices, as well as of the most useful institutions in the kingdom. Several of our monarchs, and among them Queen Elizabeth, were born in the palace formerly situated here.

*Woolwich*, somewhat below, is one of the greatest deposits of ordnance and naval stores belonging to the nation. It has a foundery for cannon, and several docks for men of war, the largest of which have here sufficient depth of water to ride at all times in safety. A royal military academy is established at this place.

*Gravesend* is the place where outward-bound ships lie till visited by the custom-

R

house



house officers, and where passengers commonly land and embark. Great quantities of garden vegetables are grown in its neighbourhood.

Near Gravesend are vast chalk pits, from which great quantities of lime are made. Flint-stones taken out of the pits are sent as far as Staffordshire for the use of the potteries there. Farther down a marshy peninsula stretches out, terminating in the isle of Grain, round which is the mouth of the Medway. A little way up this river lies the town of *Chatham*, famous for its great naval arsenal and docks, defended by strong and extensive fortifications. Many of the largest ships of war are laid up here in time of peace. In the inglorious reign of Charles II. the Dutch sailing up this river, here destroyed several capital vessels.

Contiguous to Chatham is the city of *Rochester*; a place of great antiquity, but at present of small consequence. It has jurisdiction over the great oyster fishery in the several creeks of the Medway.

Descending



Descending this river again, the *Isle of Shepey* appears; a moderately elevated clayey tract, separated from the land by the *East Swale*, a branch of the Medway. It yields plenty of fine corn, and feeds numerous flocks of sheep. On its northern point, called *Skireness*, is a fort for the protection of the Medway, reckoned one of the most unhealthy spots in England. Milton, opposite this island, is noted for its large oysters.

*Feversham*, at a small distance from the shore, has a small port on a creek, and is famous for the best oysters for laying in stews. Here that misguided king, James II. was stopped, attempting to embark for France, after the success of the Prince of Orange. The country about Feversham is very rich, and in high cultivation. There are several gunpowder mills in its neighbourhood.

Further eastward begin the chalk cliffs, forming a kind of wall in front of the sea. The eastern angle of the coast consists of



the *isle of Thanet*, now separated from the main only by a narrow channel of the Stour. It produces much corn, especially barley, and also madder. The southern part of it contains a tract of rich marsh land. The husbandry of this isle, and of East Kent in general, has long been famous. In the isle of Thanet is *Margate*, a place rapidly increased of late years, by the great resort from London for the purpose of sea-bathing. It has a harbour, from whence the corn of the country is exported; and vessels are frequently passing from it to the coast of Flanders.

Round the land from hence is the point called *North Foreland*, between which and *South Foreland* lie the *Downs*, a greatly frequented road for shipping. Off at sea are the dangerous *Goodwin Sands*, supposed formerly to have made a part of the Kentish land. For the better security of navigation on this coast, great sums of money have been expended in building piers at *Ramsgate*; but its haven is still very indifferent.

This



This town has some trade to the Baltic, and is frequented for bathing.

*Sandwich*, a little way up the Stour, has its harbour so choked up as to admit only small vessels, which export corn, fruit, and garden seeds, the product of the neighbourhood.

The shore from hence to deal is flat and sandy. The towns and villages on the coast are inhabited by fishermen, pilots, and others who gain subsistence from the sea, and find frequent employ in assisting stranded ships, and saving goods and men from wrecks. The *Deal* people are reckoned peculiarly bold and active upon these occasions. That town has also a considerable traffic in supplying ships with vegetables and other necessaries.

On turning the South Foreland, the famous town and castle of *Dover* appear, formerly a place of the greatest importance, and accounted the key of the island; but at present chiefly known as the station of the French and Flemish packets, and the



shortest passage to the Continent. The distance from Dover to Calais is but twenty-seven miles; and, in the narrowest part of the Straits, the two lands are only twenty-one miles asunder. The harbour of Dover is made by a gap in the cliffs, which are here of sublime height, though somewhat exaggerated in the most picturesque description of Shakespear. Dover is the principal, though not the first in rank, of those ancient port towns on this coast called the *Cinque-ports*, formerly of great consequence, but now, either from changes in the coast itself, or the alterations in trade and navigation, become almost insignificant. They are still, however, distinguished by various privileges.

The country inland from Dover consists chiefly of open downs, on which many sheep are fed.

The high chalk cliffs continue to *Folkstone*, a fishing town, from whence the coast becomes flat and marshy to the extreme point of Kent, *Dungeness*. This is the termination



mination of *Romney-marsh*, a vast tract of rich wet land, chiefly devoted to sheep-grazing. The sort here kept is large, and affords a great supply of fat mutton to the London markets. Their wool is some of the finest of the long combing kind. Some large oxen are also fattened here. The country is thinly inhabited and reckoned unhealthy, but is improved of late years by draining.

Of the inland towns in Kent, the first to be mentioned is the city of *Canterbury*, distinguished by being the metropolitan see of all England. Its ample cathedral has been the burial place of many of our kings and princes, among whom were Henry IV. and the Black Prince. At one of its altars was murdered that turbulent and ambitious priest, the archbishop Thomas a Becket, whom superstition afterwards made a saint; and his rich shrine in this cathedral was visited by pilgrims from all parts of Europe. Canterbury is an old and meanly built city, though partaking of the late improvements in that



respect. Its trade is in a declining state, notwithstanding it possesses a share of the silk manufactures introduced by the French refugees. It is celebrated for brawn, and the country round produces much hops of the best quality.

*Maidstone*, the county-town of Kent, by means of its river the Medway, enjoys a brisk trade in exporting the commodities of the county, particularly its hops, of which there are numerous plantations around it. Linen thread is also made in this place.

*Tunbridge*, further up the same river, which is navigable to it for barges, is famous for its elegant turnery ware. The chalybeat wells in its neighbourhood were once one of the most fashionable places of public resort, and are still frequented by many invalids in the season.

Near *Sevenoaks* the rebel Cade defeated a party of the royal forces in Henry VI.'s time.

At *Dartford* began the insurrection of Wat Tyler and Jack Straw, who afterwards mustered



mustered a vast force on *Blackheath*, near Greenwich, and marched to London.

*Swanescombe*, near Gravesend, is the place where, it is said, the Kentish men, concealed by boughs of trees, met William the Conqueror, and demanded and obtained the confirmation of all their rights and privileges as the condition of their submission. The fact is doubted; though it is certain that many peculiar customs still remain in Kent, one of the most remarkable of which is that of *gavelkind*, or the equal distribution of landed property among all the sons in a family.



## S U S S E X.

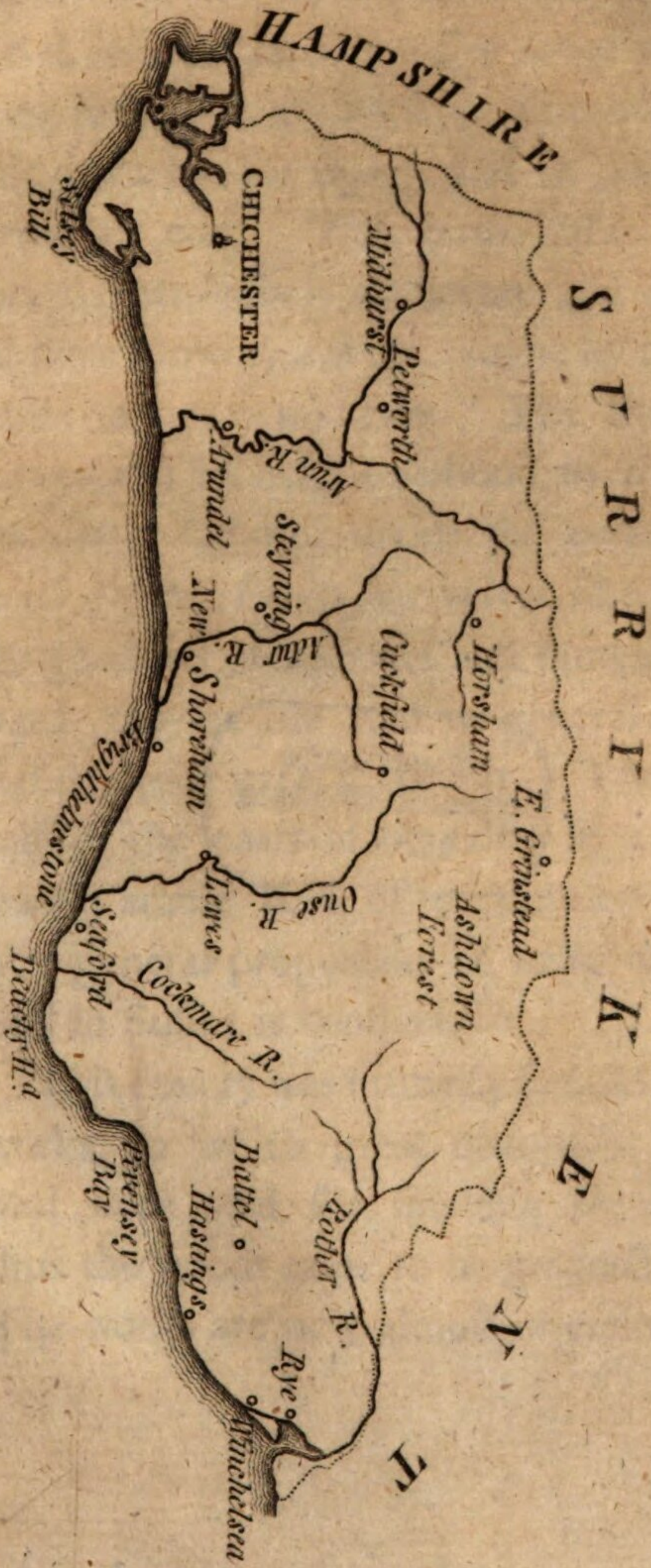
THIS county, which forms a long slip of land ranging along the sea-coast, is bounded on the north by Surry and Kent; on the south by the British Channel, which, together with Kent, forms its narrow eastern boundary; and to the west by Hampshire. From east to west it measures full seventy miles, from north to south in no part more than twenty-eight miles, and in general considerably less.

The northern and middle part of Suffex, a tract continued from the Weald of Kent, and of the same nature with it, was formerly entirely covered with forests: and, though many of these have been cut down, it is still well furnished with timber both of large and small growth. The soil is generally clay, but intermixed with sandy wastes. A ridge of hills running in a north-westerly direction is composed of gritstone, limestone, and iron ore.

A narrow



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A narrow slip below the middle of the county is a rich tract of arable and meadow. To it succeed the Downs, a range of green open hills of a chalky soil, affording excellent pasturage for sheep, and in many parts fertile in corn. The birds called wheat-ears are particularly numerous and excellent on these Downs, and are caught by the shepherds in great numbers. The tract from Lewes and its neighbourhood to the sea is peculiarly famous, under the name of the *South Downs*, for its fine velvet-like turf, and the goodness of its wool and mutton. Towards the sea the land in general declines, and in some parts is marshy. The western half of the coast is bounded by a stripe of loamy arable land of uncommon fertility. The general proportion of waste and forest land in Sussex is considerable.

This county was formerly famous for iron-works, in which great quantities of charcoal were used for smelting the ore, and thus the woods came to be gradually wasted. The works are now almost or entirely abandoned;



done; this business, from the late improvements in smelting iron with pit-coal, having migrated to the counties which abound in that cheaper article, as well as in iron ore. The products for which Suffex is at present distinguished are chiefly corn, hops, wool, cattle and timber. The South-down breed of sheep is native to that district, and is by many reckoned, for fineness of wool and goodness of flesh, the first breed in the kingdom. Oxen are more used for draught in Suffex than in most counties, and great numbers of them are fattened in the marshes and meadows. The oak timber of Suffex is supposed in quantity and quality to surpass that of any other county. It chiefly grows on the stiff clay of the Weald. The chalk hills produce a large quantity of beech wood.

Several small streams water this county, the course of which is little more than across it. The *Arun*, rising in the western border, meanders through a beautiful tract of country, and falls into the sea a little below  
Arundel,



Arundel. It is famous for mullets. Parallel to this flows the *Adur*, coming down from the neighbourhood of Horsham, and discharging itself near New Shoreham. An *Ouse* (which name is common to so many rivers) succeeds, on the banks of which many of the forges were situated. It passes Lewes, and enters the sea near Seaford.

Several small rivulets occupy the eastern part, to which at length succeeds the small estuary of the *Rother*, forming Rye harbour, and separating Sussex from Kent. From this point we shall begin a survey of the sea-coast, which is in general rocky, and lined with sand-banks, so that the harbours are small, and have little draught of water.

The town of *Rye*, an appendage to the Cinque-ports, is populous, though its port is so choked with sand that it can admit only small vessels. It exports corn, malt, hops, and other products of the county. Its fishermen send considerable supplies to the London markets.

*Winchelsea*, one of the Cinque-ports, is  
now



now deserted by the sea, and exhibits nothing but desolation in its grass-grown streets. A finely-varied country, covered with woods, succeeds, extending to

*Hastings*, the first in rank of the Cinque-ports, but which now possesses only an indifferent harbour, and has little trade but the fishery. It is famous in history for the decisive battle in 1066 between William Duke of Normandy and Harold; in which the former, by his victory, obtained the crown of England, and appellation of the Conqueror. He is supposed to have landed at or near *Pevensey*; and, after burning his ships, to have mustered his army at *Hastings*, and marched to battle in an adjacent plain. The abbey of *Battel* was founded in memory of this great combat. The present town on its site is noted for a manufacture conformable to its name and origin, that of gunpowder.

From hence the coast bends southwards with a low shore along *Pevensey level* to a blunt high promontory, called *Beachy-head*, and



and then runs a little northwards by *Seaford*, a fishing town, and the mouth of the Ouse, to *Brightelmstone*. This is one of the most fashionable resorts at the present time for sea-bathing, and is also a place of embarkation for France. It employs many boats in the herring and mackerel fishery. Its cliffs are continually becoming a prey to the waves.

*New Shoreham* is the next port; which has also suffered by the waves, but has still a considerable trade in ship-building, the timber for which it derives from the interior parts of the county.

A few miles up the Arun, is *Arundel*, another port.

The coast then, taking another bend, forms the *bill* and peninsula of *Selfey*, noted for its cockles; and, soon after, reaching the extremity of the county, turns into a kind of close bay, near a creek of which is situated the city of *Chichester*. This is a place of some traffic in the export of corn, malt, and other commodities, and has some  
4 foreign



foreign commerce. Needles are manufactured here. The haven affords fine lobsters.

Few of the inland towns of Suffex require particular notice.

*Lewes*, accounted the capital, is a well built populous place, situated in a very plentiful country. Its river is navigable for barges. Near this town was fought a bloody battle in the Barons' wars, in 1263, wherein King Henry III. was defeated and made prisoner.

*Horsham*, near the borders of Surry, is a considerable town, at which the assizes are occasionally held. Its market supplies London with much fine poultry.



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# BERKSHIRE.





## BERKSHIRE.

THE county of Berks has to the north Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, from which it is separated by the Thames; to the east Surry, to the south Hampshire, and to the west Wiltshire. Its north-western corner just meets a point of Gloucestershire. In shape it is very irregular, the whole long northern side being figured by the windings of the Thames, which, taking a southern course from Oxford, almost cuts this county asunder at Reading, and renders its whole western part much broader than its eastern. Berkshire from east to north-west extends above fifty miles, and from north to south, in its widest part, about twenty-five, though little more than six in its narrowest.

Of this county, the western and middle parts are accounted the most fertile; the eastern is chiefly occupied by Windsor-forest and its appendages, and has much unculti-

S

vated



vated ground. A range of chalk-hills runs across from Oxfordshire westward, and bounds the noted *Vale of White Horse*, so called from the gigantic figure of an horse rudely sketched on the naked side of a chalk-hill. This vale, with the other cultivated parts of the county, produces grain in great abundance, and of excellent quality, especially barley, of which vast quantities are malted and sent to London. On the grass lands in the vale are many good dairy farms; and great numbers of swine are fattened in the county.

About Newbury peat is dug, which is used for fuel, and its ashes are employed as a rich manure for the land.

A large proportion of the county is open, the common fields and downs being estimated at above half the whole, and the wastes, forests, and commons, at one eleventh.

The noble river Thames, which borders so large a part of this county, is of vast advantage to it, both in bestowing beauty and fertility on so many situations in it, and in  
affording



affording a ready carriage by water of its commodities to the great mart of the metropolis. Berkshire has, besides, the benefit of another navigable river, the *Kennet*, which, making its entrance from Wiltshire, flows to Newbury, where it becomes navigable, and below which it is augmented by the *Lamborn*, and then keeps along the southern edge of the county, till, turning up to Reading, it mixes with the Thames.

The *Loddon*, joined by several small streams out of the eastern extremity of the county, flows into the Thames a little lower.

The Kennet swift, for silver eels renown'd,  
The Loddon flow, with verdant alders crown'd.

POPE, WINDSOR FOR.

The *forest of Windsor* has long been famous for its rural beauties and for the pleasures of the chase which it has afforded to a long series of our monarchs. It was the theme of the juvenile muse of Pope, who was born within its precincts. Within the forest is



contained the *great park*, covered with noble trees, and stocked with numerous herds of deer. Part of this has been greatly improved and rendered of public utility, by the establishment of experimental farms, managed with great attention under the particular direction of his present Majesty. The magnificent castle of Windsor, seated on an eminence above the Thames, and commanding a view of the whole rich country around, was founded by William the Conqueror, and has ever since been a royal residence. Here was born the victorious Edward III. and here he instituted the illustrious order of the Garter, whose knights are always installed in St. George's chapel at Windsor.

The capital of this county is *Reading*, a town of considerable size, and the centre of a genteel neighbourhood. Its chief trade is in malt, and in the export and import of commodities by means of the Thames. It supplies London with a vast quantity of flour. Sail and sackcloth, ribbons and pins, are made here in small quantities.



*Newbury*, formerly eminent for the clothing manufactory, is now much declined in that respect, but is still a populous place, and possesses a very excellent corn market. Its poor are chiefly employed in spinning. Two battles were fought near this town with dubious success between the forces of King Charles I. and the Parliament, in 1643 and 1644, in the first of which was slain the gallant and virtuous Lord Falkland.

*Abingdon* and *Wallingford*, both on the Thames, are of note for the making of malt.

*Ilfley* is noted for its great sheep market, frequented by the neighbourhood round to a considerable distance.

Several large fairs for horses, neat cattle, and sheep, are held in this county.



## WILTSHIRE.

THE county of Wilts is contiguous on the north and north-west to Gloucestershire, on the west to Somersetshire, on the south to Dorsetshire, on the south-east to Hampshire, and on the north-east to Berkshire. Its boundaries are almost in every part artificial. Its shape is nearly a regular oblong, with some windings on the borders. In length it is upwards of fifty miles, in breadth between thirty and forty.

There is a striking difference between the face of the south and east parts, and the north and west, of this county. The former are composed of a broken mass of chalk hills which enter the county from Berkshire, Hampshire, and Dorsetshire, and terminate in an irregular line of bold breaks and disjointed masses, intersected by deep vallies formed by brooks and rivulets rising within this district. This is the larger division.

The



# WILTSHIRE.





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The west and north parts chiefly consist of a rich tract of vale land, stretching north-east and south-west under the foot of the hills, but rising gradually in the north-west corner till it joins the high lands of Gloucestershire. The general elevation of the county is proved by the various rivers which have their sources in it. The heads of the *Thames* in Gloucestershire are very near the border of this county; and several of its tributary rills rise in the north of Wiltshire. The *lower Avon*, which flows to Bristol, springs out of this district, and winds through a large part of the north-western side of the county. Nearer the middle, among some chalky hills, rises the *Kennet*, which, taking its course through Berkshire, empties itself into the Thames. A little southwards is the fountain of the *upper Avon*, which, running down to Salisbury, then crosses a part of Hampshire, and discharges itself into the English channel. Thus, from the northern and middle parts of Wiltshire, streams are sent to the three different sides of this kingdom.



The Wiltshire downs have two principal subdivisions, called Marlborough-downs and Salisbury-plain. *Marlborough-downs* occupy a considerable tract on the north-eastern side, towards the Berkshire border.

Below the middle of the county begins that extensive tract, great part of which bears the name of *Salisbury-plain*, the most remarkable spot of the kind in England. Over these wilds, stretching beyond the reach of sight, wander vast flocks of sheep with their solitary shepherds, the sole tenants of the plain, except the bustard, the wheatear, and a few other lovers of the desert. Ruins of Roman, Saxon and Danish monuments are scattered through these districts; among which the famed *Stonehenge* rises distinguished to the view. This is a rude collection of vast stones, disposed circularly, and some of them joined at top by a flat piece laid across; concerning the builders of which, and the purposes it was intended to answer, antiquarians widely differ. Dyer, in his enumeration of the spots peculiarly adapted



adapted to sheep, gives a striking sketch of the plain and its great relic.

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such the spacious plain  
Of Sarum, spread like ocean's boundless round,  
Where solitary Stonehenge, grey with moss,  
Ruin of ages, nods. FLEECE.

The soil of this uncultivated waste is said to be naturally good, producing wild burnet, and fine grasses excellent for sheep. Its edges are fertilized by folding the flocks upon the plowed land, and yield abundant crops of rye, barley, and wheat.

To the south of the largest tract of plain is a rich well-inhabited country, watered by the streams of the *Willy*, the *Nadder*, the *Avon*, and the *Bourn*, which unite in the neighbourhood of Salisbury. Between the *Willy* and *Nadder* lies the *Chicklade* ridge of hills, among which is *Chilmark*, noted for its quarries. Beyond the *Nadder*, to the borders of Dorsetshire, the open plain reappears.

The great products of the downs, or south  
and



and east parts of Wiltshire, are corn and sheep: of the latter it is computed that the whole summer stock, including lambs, amounts to near 500,000. The kind chiefly kept is called the Wiltshire horned sheep, of middling size, and moderately fine wool, used in the manufacture of second cloths. On the skirts of Dorsetshire many cows are kept for the purpose of making butter.

The north-western district of Wiltshire is particularly famous for its cheese, formerly sold under the name of Gloucester, but now in sufficient esteem to be distinguished by its own name. Cattle are likewise fattened in these parts, and great numbers of swine are reared.

The capital of Wiltshire is *Salisbury*, an ancient city, situated in a chalky soil, and almost surrounded by the Avon and its contributory rivers. It is of considerable size, genteelly inhabited, and rendered peculiarly clean by a small running stream flowing through every street. It has a fine cathedral, crowned by a spire, the loftiest in the kingdom;



kingdom; and possesses a manufacture of flannels and linseys, and another of hardware and cutlery. At a small distance from it lies the ancient borough of *Old Sarum*, now reduced to a single farm house, yet retaining its privilege of sending two members to Parliament.

*Wilton*, at the conflux of the Willy and Nadder, is noted for its manufacture of carpets, and of thin woollen cloths.

*Devizes*, a populous town north of the plain, makes ferges and other woollen stuffs; and *Calne* has a similar trade.

But the principal manufacturing country lies more to the westward, on the Somersetshire border. *Bradford*, on the lower Avon, is the centre of the greatest fabric of superfine cloths in England; which it shares with the surrounding towns of *Trowbridge*, *Melksham*, *Corsham*, and *Chippenham*. The material is chiefly Spanish wool, imported at Bristol or London. The goods are for the most part sent by waggons to the Blackwell hall factors in London; but much is also  
sold



fold throughout the kingdom. This trade is very brisk, being less affected by the rivalry of Yorkshire than the other branches of the woollen manufactory.

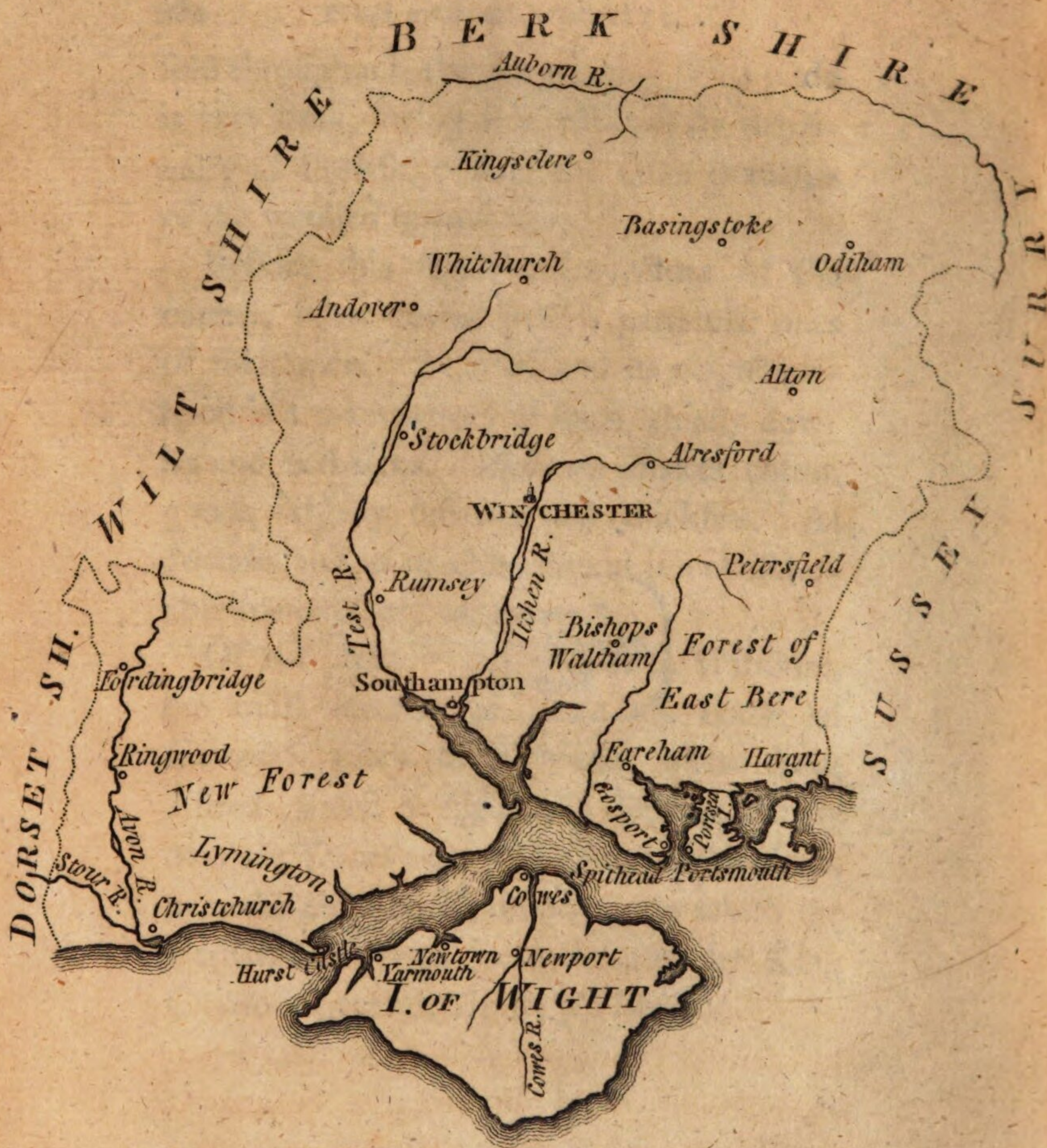
Besides this staple manufacture of the county, other towns possess particular ones of their own. At *Mere* and its neighbourhood is a manufactory of linen, chiefly dowlas and bed-ticks. *Aldbourn* makes cotton goods, chiefly fustians and thicksets. At *Swindon* and its neighbourhood is a considerable manufactory of gloves.

Of the military transactions in Wiltshire, the most memorable were the battle of *Edington*, south of *Devizes*, where king Alfred gained a signal and decisive victory over the Danes; and that of *Roundway down*, near the same town, in 1643, in which the Parliament troops were defeated by King Charles's general, Sir Ralph Hopton.



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# HAMPSHIRE.



## H A M P S H I R E.

HAMPSHIRE, Hants, or the county of Southampton, is bounded on the north by Berkshire, on the east by Surry and Suffex, on the west by Wiltshire and Dorsetshire, and on the south by a channel separating it from the isle of Wight. This island, indeed, is included within the county; but we shall treat of it separately. The figure of Hampshire would be pretty exactly square, were it not for a triangular projection at the south-west, resembling the bastion of a fortification. Exclusive of this part, it is about forty-two miles in length, and thirty-eight in breadth.

This county is considered as one of the most agreeable in England; and has, from the remotest time, supported a numerous population. Its surface is varied throughout with gently rising hills, and fruitful vales and plains. The ridge of chalk-hills may  
be



be traced across it, passing in the parallel of Winchester. Its air in the higher parts is clear and pure; towards the sea mild, and inclined to moisture. The soil is very various, but the greatest proportion of it is tending to chalk. On the Berkshire border it is in general deep and of a good staple, producing large crops of corn and fine timber. On approaching the centre the land becomes higher and more chalky, and chiefly fit for barley. On the Dorsetshire border are vast tracts of waste land covered with heath. The courses of the rivers are generally fertile meadows; and no county in England is more famous for the management of water-meadows. The products of Hampshire are fine corn, especially wheat, hops, the planting of which is of late years increased, cattle, sheep, wool, bacon, honey, and timber. The number of sheep kept in it is very great, and has been estimated at 350,000. The original Hampshire breed is horned and white-faced, but the South-down have in several parts obtained the preference.



ference. The county is particularly famous for hogs, of a large sort, the flesh of which gains a superior quality by their feeding on oak and beech mast in the neighbourhood of the woods. The principal of the forests are the *New forest*, that of *East Bere*, and of *Woolmer*, of which the chief parts belong to the crown.

Hampshire is watered by several rivers, some of which, rising in the north-east, soon quit the county to flow towards the Thames; but the greater number run from north to south across the county.

The *Avon*, from Wiltshire, coasts the edge of New forest, and enters the English channel at Christchurch-bay.

The *Test*, or *Tese*, rises in the north-western part of Hampshire; and, passing Stockbridge and Rumsey, falls into Southampton-bay.

The *Itchen* springs near the middle of the county, and, washing the city of Winchester, empties itself into the same bay at the town of Southampton.

Parallel to this, another small river falls  
into



into the mouth of this bay below Titchfield.

On tracing the sea-coast from the east, after passing an island forming part of Chichester bay, we come to *Portsea* island, a low tract of considerable extent, separated from the main by a shallow creek over which a bridge is thrown.

On this isle is situated the town of *Portsmouth*, the most considerable haven for men of war in the kingdom. The capacious harbour is made by a bay, running up between this island and an opposite peninsula, having a narrow entrance commanded by the town and forts. Portsmouth is the most strongly fortified place in Great Britain, and its high importance renders it worthy of every attention. Many of the largest ships are always laid up here; and in time of war it is the rendezvous of the grand channel fleet. The docks, arsenals, storehouses, barracks, &c. are all of capital magnitude, and kept in perfect order. The town itself is supported entirely by the resort of  
of



of the army and navy; and the country round, to a great extent, is benefited by the demand for provisions which they create.

Across the mouth of the harbour is *Gosport*, a populous town, inhabited by sailors and artificers, and containing a very large naval hospital. Off the point of land which terminates this peninsula is the noted road of *Spithead*, where the men of war anchor when prepared for actual service.

From this commences that large inlet of the sea, stretching to the north-west, called *Triffanton-bay*, or *Southampton water*. It is navigable almost to the head for vessels of considerable burthen; and the two principal rivers that flow into it admit small craft some way up the country. Between them is situated the town of *Southampton*, formerly a port of great commerce, and still possessing a trade in French and Port wines, and having a particular connexion with Guernsey and Jersey. It is a large and handsome place, and of much resort for the purpose of sea-bathing. It was on this beach

T

that



that Canute gave that striking reproof to his flattering courtiers when the disobedient tide washed his feet; and here the warlike Henry V. mustered his forces destined to the conquest of France.

Westward from the mouth of this bay lies *Lymington*, a small town upon a creek, at which salt is procured from the sea-water. It is likewise a bathing place.

Somewhat further, on a narrow spit of land, is *Hurst Castle*, at which Charles I. was confined previously to his being brought to trial.

Then succeed *Christchurch* bay, and the town of the same name, between the mouth of the Avon and the Stour, a populous place, having a manufactory of silk stockings and gloves. As a port it is inconsiderable.

Inland from hence lies the *New forest*, an extensive woody tract, overrun with deer, which was made or enlarged as a hunting ground by William the Conqueror, whose cruelty, in dispossessing the natives of their lands and habitations, was supposed to be  
avenged



avenged by the casual death of his sons Richard and William Rufus, and his grandson Henry, within its precincts.

Stretch'd on the lawn his second hope survey,  
At once the chaser, and at once the prey.  
Lo, Rufus, tugging at the deadly dart,  
Bleeds in the forest like a wounded hart.

POPE, WINDS. FOR.

It is now a great nursery of the largest oaks for the British navy. Its limits have been much reduced, but it still extends about 20 miles in one direction and 15 in another.

The city of *Winchester*, the capital of the county, is a place of as much ancient fame as any in England. Here King John resided during his troubles, and here was born his son Henry III. as was likewise Arthur son of Henry VII. The shell of a palace now existing in it was built for Charles II. Its see is very rich, and has been filled by many eminent persons. It has likewise a celebrated public school or college. The town is neat and spacious; and, though its buildings are ancient, it is inhabited by many



genteel families. Its river is navigable for barges; but it has little trade.

*Andover* is a populous town, with a manufactory of shalloons, and a great malting trade. A canal is nearly finished from it to Red-bridge. The village of *Wey-bill*, in its neighbourhood, has the greatest fair in England for hops, sheep, cheese, and some other commodities.

*Rumsey* possesses a manufactory of the shalloons called rattinets.

The small town of *Alton* manufactures corded stuffs, serge denims, &c.

*Basingstoke* is a considerable town, with a great corn-market, and a share in the woollen manufacture. A canal is carried from this town to join the river Wey near Chertsey in Surry. *Basing-house*, a little to the north of it, was held for King Charles in the civil wars, and sustained a long and memorable siege.



## ISLE OF WIGHT.

THIS fine island, in shape somewhat resembling a bird with expanded wings, measures in length about thirteen miles, in breadth twenty-one. It is nearly divided into two equal parts by the river *Mede*, or *Cowes* river, which, rising in the southern angle, discharges itself at the northern into the channel, opposite the mouth of Southampton-bay. The eastern and western points of the island are almost cut off from the body by arms of the sea.

The southern coast is edged with very steep cliffs of chalk and freestone, hollowed out into caverns in various parts. The western side is fenced with ridges of rocks, of which the most remarkable are those called, from their sharp extremities, the *Needles*. Between the island and the main are various sand-banks, especially off the eastern part, where is the safe road of *St. Helen's*.



Across the island from east to west runs a ridge of hills, forming a tract of fine downs, with a chalky or marly soil, which feed a great number of fine-fleeced sheep. Rabbits are also very plentiful here. To the north of this ridge the land is chiefly pasture; to the south of it, is a rich arable country producing great crops of corn.

The variety of prospects which this island affords, its mild air, and the neat manner in which the fields are laid out, render it a very delightful spot. It is devoted almost solely to husbandry, and has no manufacture. Its annual production is reckoned to be eight or ten times as much as its consumption; and a number of labourers come over every year to assist in getting in the harvest. All kinds of corn are grown, but especially wheat and barley. For the latter, unmalted, it is one of the principal resources of the London market. Among the products of this island are to be reckoned a pure white pipe clay, and a fine white crystalline sand; of the latter of which great quantities  
are



are exported for the use of the glass-works in various parts.

Its principal town is the borough of *Newport*, on the river Cowes, which is navigable to it for small vessels; but it is a place of little trade. *Cowes*, at the mouth of the river, has a good deal of traffic in supplying ships with provisions, especially in time of war. *Yarmouth*, though a borough town, is only a small fishing place.

Near the centre of the isle is *Carisbrook-castle*, remarkable for having been the prison of Charles I. more than a year, after he came into the power of the Parliament.



## DORSETSHIRE.

THIS county has to the north Wiltshire and Somersetshire, to the west Devonshire, to the east Hampshire, and to the south the English channel. It is every where irregular in form; its long northern side having a great angular projection in the middle, and its sea-coast running out into points and head-lands. From north to south, in the centre, it measures thirty-six miles; from east to west, exclusive of a projection into Devonshire, above fifty.

Dorsetshire, from the mildness of its air and beauty of its situation, has been termed the garden of England. The northern parts are generally level, and were formerly covered with wood; but now are chiefly converted into rich arable and pasture. Across the middle runs a ridge of lofty chalk-hills, upon which, and the downs declining towards the sea, for the most part of a delightful



DORSETSHIRE.





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lightful verdure and smoothness, feed innumerable multitudes of sheep, whose fine fleeces are used in the western woollen manufactures. Dyer has enumerated this tract among the most favourite spots for the breeding of this useful animal.

———— such, Dorchestrian fields,  
Whose flocks innumerable whiten all the land.

## FLEECE.

The principal sheep country is round Dorchester, within eight miles of which place near 170,000 sheep and lambs are supposed to be kept. Of these, about 45,000 are sold every year. The whole number kept in the county is estimated at 800,000, and the annual export at 150,000. Many of the ewes are bought by the farmers within forty miles of London, for the sake of their lambs, which come earlier than most others, and are fattened for the London markets. Besides the peculiar Dorsetshire breed, there is a very small kind in the isle of Portland and Purbeck, and the neighbouring coast, inferior in size to the Welsh sheep.

The



The chalk-hills, which we have traced through every county from the south-eastern part of the kingdom, cease in this, no considerable beds of it being found further westward. On the coast, chalk cliffs extend into Devonshire, about ten miles west of Lyme.

From the Hampshire border to the centre of the county, along the coast, runs a heathy common, that takes off from its general fertility; but this is amply compensated by the rich vales on the south-western side. The greater proportion of the land in this county is in pasturage and sheep downs. The arable is about one third of the whole, and the waste land about a ninth. The practice of watering meadows is particularly well understood in it, and contributes greatly to its fertility.

Dorsetshire is crossed from west to south-east by two principal rivers. Of these, the *Stour* rises beyond its most northerly point, on the edge of Wiltshire; and, after washing Sturminster and Blandford, flows to  
the



the Hampshire border, and enters the sea at Christchurch in that county. The northern part of its course is through an extensive vale distinguished for its rich pasture and dairy land, that of Blackmoor.

The other river is the *Frome*, or *Froom*, which comes from the south-western part of the county to Dorchester; from whence, proceeding to Wareham, it there discharges itself into the bay forming Pool harbour.

The products of Dorsetshire are corn, cattle, butter, sheep, wool, timber, flax, and hemp; of which last the finest in England is said to grow about Bridport. Some of the peculiar products of the sea coast will be noticed in the survey of that part, which we now begin with the town and port of

*Poole*. This place is situated upon a peninsula projecting into a capacious bay, branching into many creeks, and forming several islands. The harbour admits vessels of moderate size only, but for them it is very secure. Poole rose to some consequence several centuries ago, when the ancient

6 town



town of Wareham fell into decay. It now ranks high among the sea-ports of England, and its trade and population are rapidly increasing. The principal branch of business here is the Newfoundland fishery, to which it sends annually a large number of vessels which carry out provisions and commodities, and bring back cargoes of fish caught on the great cod-banks, for Spain, Portugal, and Italy. This port also has a large importation of deals from Norway, and a general commerce to America and various parts of Europe. Great quantities of corn are sent from it coastwise, and it imports Newcastle coal for all the eastern part of the county. Near the mouth of Poole harbour lies an oyster bank, upon which are employed, during the season, a number of smacks, which carry away vast quantities of oysters to be fattened in the Essex and Thames creeks for the London market.

From Poole bay begins the *isle of Purbeck*, insulated by the sea and rivers, a rough and heathy tract, which has been long famous  
for



for its stone quarries. The principal of these lie at its eastern extremity, near Swanwick, from whence the stone is exported. It is of the calcareous kind, but distinguished into numerous sorts, of which the finest take a polish, and deserve the name of marble. These are nearly black, and some abound in shells, and are used for chimney-pieces, grave-stones, hearths, &c. The coarser kinds are made use of in paving. Tobacco-pipe clay is dug in several parts of the isle of Purbeck; the finest, near *Corfe-castle*, of which much is exported, particularly for the use of the Staffordshire potteries. At this castle King Edward, named the Martyr, was stabbed in 979 at the instigation of his step-mother Alfrith.

West of Purbeck, upon an inlet of the sea, are the united towns, but distinct boroughs, of *Weymouth* and *Melcomb-regis*. The port of Weymouth is injured by the sand; from which circumstance, and the rise of Poole, its trade, which was once considerable, is now reduced very low, a few  
ships



ships only being sent from it to Newfoundland. This decline is, however, in some degree compensated to the town by the great resort to it of persons of all ranks for the purpose of sea-bathing, for which it is excellently fitted by its remarkably fine beach, and the softness of its air.—A few plain and striped cottons are made here, and also at Abbotsbury.

To the south of this place runs out a rocky promontory called the *isle of Portland*, though in fact it is a peninsula, joined to the land by a long narrow spit of sand and gravel. This is famous for its vast quarries of free-stone, of which the whole island is composed. The stone lies on a bed of clay. It is of a calcareous nature, composed of grains resembling sand, connected by a cementitious matter. The qualities of whiteness, solidity, durability, freely splitting in any direction, and easily working, added to its standing the water extremely well, render it one of the most valuable freestones known. Several of the public and private edifices



edifices in London have been built of it, among which are Whitehall, St. Paul's church, the piers of Westminster bridge, and the whole of Blackfriar's bridge. It is exported in large quantities to various parts of England, Ireland, and France. To the north of the isle is a safe road for ships; but its southern point, called the *Race of Portland*, is one of the most dangerous places in the English channel.

*Abbotsbury*, near the junction of Portland bank to the main, is the centre of a great mackerel fishery on this coast, which continues from the middle or latter end of March to Midsummer. In the early part of the season they are caught by the Cornish fishermen, and purchased at sea by the Abbotsbury and Portland smacks. The fish is sent by land, in carts, principally to London and Bath, where, in the beginning of the season, they are sold for extravagant prices: afterwards, the adjacent country is supplied with them, and often at very cheap rates. The salt water inlet at Abbotsbury is



is remarkable for being the resort of multitudes of swans.

*Bridport*, situated a little further, on a creek, has a harbour, but so choaked with sand that its shipping is inconsiderable. It has, however, a large and thriving manufactory of sail-cloth, facking, cables, ropes, large nets, and cod-lines for the Newfoundland fishery, and mackerel nets. Some of the flax and hemp used in these articles is grown in its neighbourhood, but much more is imported. *Bemminster* largely participates in the sail-cloth manufactory; and the country round for some miles finds employment in spinning and preparing the materials.

The last harbour in the county is that of *Lyme regis*, on the border of Devonshire. This town stands on the declivity of a craggy hill at the head of a little inlet; and its harbour is formed by a kind of rude pier, called the *Cobb*, behind which ships lie in safety. It has a Newfoundland and coasting trade, but greatly on the decline. It is a place of resort for sea-bathing. At  
Lyme



Lyme landed in 1685 the Duke of Monmouth, for the execution of his ill-judged design against James II. which terminated in his own destruction and that of many others.

The capital of the county, *Dorchester*, is a good old town, without manufactures, but particularly famous for its excellent malt liquor, which is exported to most parts of the kingdom.

At *Blandford* a considerable number of hands are employed in the manufacture of shirt buttons, of which more are made here than at any other place in England. They are principally sent in a wholesale way to London and other large trading towns.

At *Stalbridge*, *Winbourne*, and in *Purbeck*, many knit stockings, both plain and ribbed, are made.

*Shaftsbury*, once a place of consequence, now makes only shirt buttons and a few woven stockings.

*Sherborne* has a silk mill, which employs a number of people, and also a small woollen manufacture. A silk mill has likewise been erected at *Gillingham*.



At *Sturminster-Newton*, and in the neighbouring villages, is a considerable manufactory of swan-skin, baize, and coarse blanketting. The principal part of this is consigned to London, but much is also sent to other trading towns.

On the whole, the clothing manufactures of Dorsetshire have greatly declined from their former importance, and have, for the most part, migrated into other counties.







[illegible]



## SOMERSETSHIRE.

THIS county, lying in a crescent-like form on the Bristol channel, to which its north-western concave side is turned, has to the north-east Gloucestershire, separated from it in great measure by the Avon, to the east Wiltshire, to the south Dorsetshire and Devonshire, and the latter county to the west. Its longest line from north to south is about forty-five miles; from east to west sixty-five.

Few counties contain a greater variety of soil and situation than Somersetshire. The north-eastern quarter is in general stony, and possesses a lofty mineral tract, called the *Mendip-hills*. Towards the centre of the county, where its principal rivers unite, are fens and marshy moors of great extent. On the western side is the ridge of the *Quantock-hills*, together with many downs and open heaths; and in the utmost north-



western corner lies the bleak steril region of *Exmoor*. The southern part, towards Dorsetshire, is high, but well cultivated; and throughout the county, especially in its south-western quarter, vales are interspersed of the greatest fertility, exuberant in arable and pasturage.

The rivers of Somersetshire are numerous, but not large, as their whole course, for the most part, is within the county. The principal are, the *Parret*, which, rising at the most southern part on the Dorsetshire border, flows northwards, and is joined by the *Ivel* from the east, then by the *Tbone* from the west, uniting most of the rivulets of that part, and afterwards by other streams, with which it empties itself into the Bristol channel at Bridgewater-bay.

Into the same bay falls the *Brue*, or *Brent*, which takes its rise from Selwood forest, on the edge of Wiltshire, and receives several rivulets, particularly one coming from Shepton-Mallet and Wells.

Further to the north the little river *Ax* mixes with the sea, after passing *Axbridge*.

On



On the north-east several small streams run into the *Avon*, which, after washing Bath, flows on to become the limit between the counties of Gloucester and Somerset, dividing the city of Bristol, and at length terminating in the Bristol channel.

The natural and artificial products of this county are various and important.

The Mendip-hills afford in abundance coal, lead, and calamine. The coal is carried upon horses' backs to Bath, Wells, Frome, and other circumjacent places. The lead is said to be of a harder quality than that of other countries, and is mostly exported for making bullets and shot. The calamine is carried in great quantities to Bristol and other places, to be used in the making of brass. Copper, manganese, bole, and red oker, are also found in these hills. On their tops are large swampy flats, dangerous to cross.

Below them, on the bank of the Ax, is *Cheddar*, celebrated for its cheeses, which in size and richness are said to exceed any in



the kingdom. Much cheese is made in the lower parts of the county in general; of which a great deal is exported. Many cattle, of bulk nearly equal to the Lincolnshire, are fed in the luxuriant meadows about the head of the Parret. The best goose-feathers for beds come from the Somerset marshes. Cyder is a common product in this county.

The great vale of Taunton, called *Taunton-Dean*, is peculiarly famous for its fertility, proceeding, as the inhabitants say, from sun and soil alone, without the aid of manure.

Besides these advantages given by nature, this county has also enjoyed to a great extent the blessings of industry exerted in a capital manufactory of woollen cloths, which, though somewhat declined on account of the rivalship of Yorkshire and other places, is still considerable.

*Taunton* has been the principal seat of the manufacture of coarse woollen goods, such as serges, duroys, druggets, &c. This is a  
large



large and populous town, situated on the Thone, which is navigable from hence to the Parret, and so to Bridgewater. The manufacturing country extends from Taunton to twenty miles below Exeter. The wool made use of is all English; and the goods are chiefly exported to Holland, Germany, and the south of Europe. Large quantities of malt liquor are also sent from this town to Bristol, for exportation. In the last century Taunton was the scene of many bloody executions by the inhuman Kirk and Jefferies, after the fight at *Sedgemore* in this neighbourhood, where a number of deluded people had appeared in arms to support the attempt of the pusillanimous Duke of Monmouth against King James II. Many were slain in the ill-sustained skirmish, and many more were put to death in cold blood by the sword, and by the unrelenting hand of justice.

*Frome*, on the borders of Wiltshire, is the next considerable town for manufactures. The article chiefly made here, and also at



*Shepton Mallet*, is second cloths, the principal material of which is fine English wool.

The city of *Wells*, a joint bishop's see with Bath, situated under the Mendip-hills, is the centre, together with *Glastonbury*, of a great manufactory of knit worsted stockings.

About *Chard*, *Ilminster*, *Yeovil*, and *Crewkerne*, large quantities of coarse linens, dowlas, and bed-ticking, are made.

Connected with the trading part of the county is the town of *Bridgewater*, on the Parret, placed at some distance from the sea, but by means of the high tides enjoying the advantage of a port for vessels of moderate burthen. It carries on a considerable coasting trade to Bristol and other places on the Severn and Channel, to Wales and Cornwall. It has likewise some trade to Ireland; and its port is occasionally frequented by vessels from Norway and other parts. Some of the manufactures of the county, and large quantities of cheese and other products, are exported from hence. Brick and tile are made here in great quantity.



quantity. A foundry and braziers is also established, which employs a good number of hands.

At the western extremity of the Somersetshire coast are some small ports and fishing towns to be mentioned.

*Watchet* has a pier running out into the Bristol channel, by which a harbour is made for small vessels. A few sloops belonging to this place carry on the Welsh coal trade and the coasting traffic to Bristol. Many herrings are caught here by nets fixed on stakes along the shore. Much lime, possessed in a peculiar degree of the quality of hardening under water, is burned here. A few coarse woollens are made in this place and its neighbourhood.

*Minehead* has a very secure harbour formed by a fine pier in the channel, capable of receiving and sheltering large vessels. It has little trade of its own, employing only a few brigs and sloops in the coal and corn trade along the coast, and to Ireland. It is much declined, and has almost lost the  
6 woollen



woollen manufactory it once possessed. The herring fishery is at present one of the principal branches of its business.

*Portlock*, further to the west, has a harbour for small vessels, and possesses a few coasting sloops and fishing skiffs. Below it is *Lee-Mouth*, a fishing village. This whole bay, in the months of November and December, is filled with herrings which come to deposit their spawn, and is the rendezvous of most of the fishing smacks belonging to the Bristol channel. Besides the fish taken by the boats, vast quantities are caught in small inlets of the bay, called locks.

The city of *Bristol*, situated on the northern border of this county, is most properly referred hither, though the greater part of it lies within the limits of Gloucestershire, since, before it formed a separate jurisdiction, it was accounted to belong to Somersetshire. Bristol, in wealth, trade, and population, has long been reckoned second to London within this kingdom; and though the custom-house receipts of Liverpool



pool have for some time past exceeded those of Bristol, yet the latter may perhaps still maintain its place with respect to the opulence and number of its inhabitants.

It is situated at the conflux of the river Avon with the small stream of the Frome, at the distance of about ten miles from the place where the Avon discharges itself into the Severn's mouth. The tide rushing with great violence and rising to a vast height in these narrow rivers, brings vessels of considerable burthen to the quay of Bristol, which extends along the inner shores of the Frome and Avon. Here at low water they lie a-ground in the mud; which circumstance, together with various difficulties in navigating to and from the Severn, are the disadvantages under which this port labours. On this account some of the larger ships discharge part of their lading below. In King-road, at the Avon's mouth, vessels ride secure while waiting for a proper opportunity of entering the river. The great trade of Bristol is supported by its extensive



five inland communications with the Severn and all its branches, the Avon, the Wye, and various other streams. Hence it enjoys the export and import traffic of a large part of the kingdom, and is enabled to find vent for a great variety of manufactures of its own.

The principal branch of the foreign commerce of Bristol is that to the West Indies. In this between seventy and eighty ships are constantly employed, which carry out every article necessary for the clothing and maintenance of the white and black inhabitants of the islands, as also materials for building, and in particular great quantities of lime burned at St. Vincent's rocks. They bring back sugar, rum, cotton, and all the other products of those countries. The sugar is a very great article; and its refinery is one of the capital manufactures of Bristol, serving for the supply of all the western counties of England, and all South Wales. The African trade is much less connected with the West Indian at this port than at Liverpool.

With



With the north and south of Europe Bristol has a general trade, of which that with Spain is the most important, a quantity of wool, consisting of from four to six thousand bags, being annually imported from that country for the use of the western clothing manufactures. The return is in a variety of goods, particularly tin, lead, and copper. The traffic with Portugal from this port is likewise considerable. Bristol has also a share in the trade to the continent of America and Newfoundland; and an extensive commerce with Ireland.

The manufactures of this city and its vicinity furnish it with several important articles of exportation. The glass-making, in its several articles of crown, flint, and bottle glass, is very considerable, and on the increase. Ireland and America take off great quantities of these goods, especially bottles, of which nearly half the number are sent out filled with beer, cyder, perry, and Bristol water. The copper and brass manufactures were of capital importance, but  
are



are now much declined in consequence of a monopoly. Hard white soap, of the best quality, is made here in large quantities, much of which is sent to London, as well as to the colonies abroad. Hats, leather, both tanned and dressed in oil, saddlery and shoes, white lead, gunpowder, and earthen ware, are all considerable articles of domestic and foreign traffic. The city likewise possesses works for smelting lead and making lead shot, iron founderies, rolling and flitting mills, and tin works, all which furnish very valuable commodities for exportation. Its former woollen manufactures are at an end.

Some of the principal commodities of the surrounding country, exported from Bristol, are, cheese, cyder and beer, a few coals, herrings taken in the Channel, salt from Droitwich, coarse woollens and stockings, hardware from Birmingham and Wolverhampton, and earthen-ware from Staffordshire. In the exportation of these last articles, however, Liverpool has greatly gained  
I upon



upon Bristol, chiefly on account of the superiority of the canal navigations to that town, above the difficult and uncertain navigation of the Severn.

Bristol is closely built; but, like other opulent towns, is now extending itself into its suburbs by new and more airy streets.

The Bristol *hot wells* are mentioned under Gloucestershire.

Though the trading towns of Somersetshire are thus important, they have not conferred so much celebrity upon it as that great mart of health and pleasure, the city of *Bath*. This place, from the time of the Romans, has been known and frequented for its hot springs, which are the most remarkable in England, and inferior to few in Europe. They are used both externally as baths, and internally as a medicine; and great benefits are daily received from them in gouty, paralytic, bilious and a variety of other cases. Bath has long been a place of great concourse; and the reputation of its waters, or the fashion of using them, is so much



much increased of late years, that it is become the principal resort in the kingdom, next to the metropolis, for the nobility and gentry; and the constant residence of many opulent invalids, as well as of numerous votaries of dissipation. In splendour and elegance of buildings it exceeds every town in England; an advantage greatly owing to the white stone of which they are constructed, and of which the soil around is chiefly composed. Bath is situated in a valley; which circumstance, with the reflection of the sun's rays from the white soil, renders it extremely hot in summer. Most of its new buildings, however, ascend up the steep northern side of the valley, rising tier above tier, and affording a singular and very striking prospect. The principal seasons for the waters are spring and autumn.

Among the historical events of this county may be mentioned two great battles fought near *Pen* below Selwood forest; in one of which the Britons were entirely defeated by the West-Saxons; and in the other the  
Danes



Danes were completely overthrown by King Edmund Ironside.

A river-island called *Athelney*, at the conflux of the Thone and Parret, is memorable for having given shelter amidst its inaccessible morasses to the great Alfred, after a defeat he sustained from the Danes.

At *Lansdown* near Bath a pitched battle was fought in 1643 between the forces of Charles I. and the Parliament, in which the victory was undecided.



## DEVONSHIRE.

THE county of Devon, in size the second in England, lies between two seas, having to the north and north-west the Bristol channel, and to the south and south-east the English channel. Its western side borders upon Cornwall, from which it is separated almost the whole way by the river Tamar; and its eastern side upon the counties of Somerset and Dorset. Its figure is nearly rhomboidal. From the most southerly to the most northerly point it measures near seventy miles, and from east to west sixty-four.

The soil and face of country in this large space are various. From the borders of Dorsetshire to Exeter, and most of the country towards the southern coast, is very fertile and pleasant. Here are situated what Dyer terms

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Devon's myrtle vales,  
That drink clear rivers near the glassy sea.

FLEECE.

For





DEVONSHIRE.



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For such is the mildness of the climate that the myrtle grows unsheltered on the sea shore. This tract has become a favourite resort for invalids, particularly those disposed to pulmonary complaints, who pass their winters here often with more comfort than in the south of Europe. A large district called the *South Hams*, stretching from the river Teign under the Dartmoor hills across to Plymouth, is almost unrivalled throughout the kingdom for the richness of its soil and abundance of products. It is the principal granary of these parts.

From Exeter, across the county to the edge of Cornwall, lies the wide barren tract of *Dartmoor*, a rushy naked morass, bounded on the north by bleak hills. This sort of country, sandy or clayey, wet, and sterile, extends northwards quite through the centre of the county, and, on the Cornish border, to the sea. Many sheep are bred here, but of a small kind, and subject to the rot. The chief riches of the inhabitants are their black cattle, which thrive well on the coarse



four herbage; and, after being fattened in better pastures, are driven in great numbers to Smithfield market. Tin was formerly procured in great quantity on the western line of the county; but the trade in that metal has now almost entirely migrated into Cornwall.

The north-eastern part adjoining Exmoor in Somersetshire, is in general a dry heathy soil, with mines of copper, lead, and other minerals.

The climate of Devonshire is too much inclined to moisture, on account of its position between two seas; and for that reason its products are apt to be less perfect. Much of the cyder made in it is of a harsh sour, and watery nature, to which qualities is commonly imputed a kind of severe colic prevalent among the lower class of people; though some attribute this distemper to the lead of the cyder-presses, dissolved by the acid liquor. Devonshire upon the whole is more of a feeding than a corn-growing country, possessing some excellent native breeds



breeds of horned cattle, of which the North-Devon is particularly famous. Much butter is made in the grafs-lands, which is prepared after a peculiar process without the use of the churn.

This county is watered by many rivers, some of which discharge themselves into the northern, and some into the southern sea. Of the former there are two which unite the rest, and flow together into Barnstaple bay. These are, the *Towridge*, which, rising near the sea on the Cornish border, runs south-eastward to Hatherleigh, and then meeting with the *Oke* from Okehampton, turns short to the north, and passes Torrington and Biddeford;—and the *Taw*, which, taking its rise from the centre of the county, flows on to Barnstaple, and then turns westerly to join the *Towridge* at its mouth.

Of the rivers running into the southern sea, or English channel, one of the principal is the *Ex*. This has its source in Exmoor; and leaving Somersetshire below



Dulverton, proceeds by Tiverton to Exeter, widening from Topsham into an arm of the sea which terminates at Exmouth.

To the west of this is the Teign, composed of two branches, which, uniting, join the sea at Teignmouth. Then succeeds the *Dart*, which rises in the hills of Dartmoor, and, flowing rapidly southwards, passes Totness, whence it spreads into the arm which forms Dartmouth-haven.

The *Tamar* takes its origin near that of the Towridge, not far from the Bristol channel; and, flowing southwards in a gently winding course, forms the boundary between Cornwall and Devonshire, except in one place, where the latter county throws out a horn-like projection. Below Saltash it becomes an arm of the sea, ending in Plymouth Sound.

We shall begin the survey of the sea-coasts of Devonshire with that of the English channel. This coast in general may be said to consist of numbers of bays, not deeply incurvated, bounded by head-lands, often



often of a reddish indurated clay or sandstone. The shores are flat, gravelly, or sandy. The country within rises and breaks into fine lofty inequalities. Chalk is found upon the coast at different places as far as ten miles west of Lyme. About Dartmouth is a Limestone, which continues to Plymouth.

On proceeding from Dorsetshire, the first place on the coast deserving notice is *Sidmouth*, a fishing town frequented for sea-bathing.

Then succeeds the broad mouth of the Ex, which admits laden ships of three hundred tons, by the assistance of the tide, through a somewhat difficult channel, as far as *Topsham*, a considerable town, serving as the port of Exeter. Vessels of one hundred tons, however, can proceed as far as the spacious quay of that city.

*Exeter*, the capital of Devonshire, is the principal city for size and consequence in the west of England; and is at the same time the residence of many families of gentry, and the seat of an extensive foreign



and domestic commerce. The trade of Exeter consists principally in the exportation of coarse woollen goods manufactured in the counties of Devon, Cornwall, and a part of Somerset. These are sold, as they come from the loom, to the merchants of Exeter, who procure them to be milled, dyed and finished, and afterwards export them. These goods chiefly consist of articles little consumed in England, as druggets, duroys, long-ells, and ferges. The markets for them are, first Italy, then Spain, Germany, Holland, Portugal, and lately France. The average annual value exported is reckoned at 600,000*l*. Besides this, the East India Company takes off a quantity of long-ells amounting to the value of about 105,000*l*. of which about a fourth part are shipped at Exeter; the remainder at Dartmouth and Plymouth. For making these woollens, about four thousand bags of wool are imported at Exeter from Kent. The rest of the wool made use of is the product of Devonshire and the neighbouring counties.

Exeter



Exeter likewise imports dying drugs, wine, and fruit, from Spain and Italy; linens from Germany; and hemp, iron, timber, and tallow, from the Baltic. It sends ships to the Newfoundland and Greenland fisheries. It supplies the country round with coal both from the northern collieries and from Wales; and it has an exportation of corn, especially oats, to London.

*Teignmouth*, a creek reckoned part of the port of Exeter, sends a number of vessels to the Newfoundland fishery, and has a considerable coasting trade, especially in carrying vast quantities of tobacco-pipe clay to Liverpool, whence are brought back coals, salt, earthen-ware, &c.

Farther to the south-west is *Torbay*, a semicircular bason, which has frequently been the resort of our fleets in time of war. Here, on November 5th, 1688, landed the Prince of Orange, on his glorious expedition to deliver this nation from the attempts of a tyrannical bigot against its laws and religion.

At



At *Brixham*, within this bay, are kept a large number of sloops for the sole purpose of trawling, by which the best flat fish, as turbot, soles, and plaice, besides great quantities of whiting, piper, gurnet, and other fish, which frequent that coast, are taken some leagues out at sea. This business is continued throughout the year; and the fish so caught are sent by land carriage to various markets, as London, Bath, Bristol, and Exeter.

On turning the next point, appears the spacious haven of *Dartmouth*, capable of sheltering a large number of ships. The town has a considerable trade to the southern parts of Europe and Newfoundland, as well as in the coasting traffic.

The coast continues to run southwards as far as the *Start point*, after which it turns to the north-west. Several small harbours and creeks fill up the space from this point to Plymouth sound.

*Plymouth* is, next to Portsmouth, the most considerable harbour of England for men



of war, and is a frequent rendezvous of the Channel fleet in time of war. It is thought to be well fortified, though in the late war, when the combined fleets of France and Spain appeared off the coast, the means of defence were found to have been so shamefully neglected, that it could have made no resistance if attacked. The harbour is double, and particularly excellent. That called *Hamoaze* is capable of containing a great quantity of shipping, and is fitted with moorings for eighty sail. Here are docks, arsenals, and all the conveniences for building and fitting out ships of war. The *dock* forms a separate town, now large and populous from the number of artificers in constant employ. Plymouth itself is a populous town, and carries on considerable trade, domestic and foreign.

Some miles at sea, off Plymouth sound, is *Eddystone lighthouse*, a remarkable structure erected upon a rock, which is covered at high water.

The Devonshire coast on the Bristol channel is next to be considered.

On



On advancing from Somersetshire we come first to *Comb Martin*, once famous for a lead mine abounding in silver, now no longer wrought.

*Ilfracombe* has a spacious bason, formed by a good pier running out into the Bristol channel. The high tides here allow large vessels to enter the harbour. This port employs a number of brigs and sloops chiefly in carrying ore from Cornwall, coals from Wales, and corn to Bristol. A number of fishing skiffs belong to the place, which, with those of Minehead, fish on a bank off the coast during the summer, and take a number of soals, turbot, &c. for the Bristol market.

Farther westward is Barnstaple bay, the entrance to the rivers Taw and Towridge, which unite just before they reach the sea. The town of *Barnstaple* is situated about twelve miles up the former river, and that of *Biddeford* about six miles up the latter. The navigation to Biddeford is much easier than to Barnstaple, and will admit with  
safety



safety ships of 300 tons burden. To both places belong a considerable number of brigs and sloops, which are chiefly employed in the Welsh coal-trade, and in carrying corn to Bristol. Some of these trade to Ireland, from whence they bring yarn for the use of the manufactures of this county. Only three vessels are now employed in the Newfoundland trade, which is the only established foreign commerce these towns have. A number of boats employed in the herring-fishery lie at *Clovely*, a small harbour with a pier in the bay.

The promontory of *Hartland point*, frequented by the herring-fishers, nearly terminates the Devonshire coast on this side.

Of the inland towns of Devonshire it will be sufficient to mention a few, the most considerable for trade.

*Tiverton* upon the Ex is reckoned the principal of these, and comes next to Exeter in its traffic in the woollen manufactures.

*Crediton* possesses a considerable manufactory of serges.



In *Honiton* are made quantities of the broadest laces in the kingdom. It is observable that the three above-mentioned towns have suffered greatly at different times, and some very lately, by fire. This has been the case also with other towns in this county.

*Totness*, *Ashburton*, and *Columpton*, have likewise a share in the different woollen manufactures, which extend over the eastern and middle parts of Devonshire.

*Axminster* partakes in the same, and has besides of late years become famous for its carpet manufactory.



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CORNWALL.

BRISTOL

CHANNEL

DEVONSHIRE

CHANNEL

ENGLISH





## C O R N W A L L.

THIS county, forming the south-western extremity of Great Britain, is every where surrounded by the sea, except on its eastern side, which borders upon Devonshire; from which county, however, it is separated by the river Tamar; so that it is very nearly a complete island. It is of an angular figure, growing gradually narrower from east to west, and terminating at last in a point. From the western extremity, called *Land's end*, to the Devonshire border, measures ninety miles: the side contiguous to Devon measures above fifty, but the breadth very soon contracts to thirty, and near the Land's end does not exceed seven.

Thus detached as Cornwall is by situation from the west of England, it was **formerly** still further separated by the use of a **totally** different language, a dialect of the Armoric, and related to the Welsh. This language



guage has for two or three centuries ceased to be common, and is now utterly extirpated; but the proper names of the county still exhibit a striking difference from those of English origin.

Cornwall, from its soil, appearance, and climate, is one of the least inviting of the English counties. A ridge of bare rugged hills, intermixed with bleak moors, runs through the midst of its whole length, and, in the narrowest parts, extends from side to side. The low grounds between the hills and the sea are, in some parts, rendered sufficiently fertile by the aid of manure derived from the sea-sand and weeds of the beach; but the saltiness of the atmosphere, and violence of the winds, will scarcely suffer trees, or even hedges, to grow near the shore; so that almost the whole county has a naked and desolate appearance. The air is made extremely moist by the surrounding body of water; and the high lands in the centre intercept the mists and clouds in their passage; so that rains or  
fogs



fogs are almost daily experienced. At the same time the winds are continually shifting with violence from one point to another; which circumstance, while it increases the mutability of the weather, has a favourable effect in preventing those stagnations of damp air which are so prejudicial to health in some wet countries. The winters here are very mild, snow seldom lying more than two or three days, and frosts being of short duration; so that myrtles and other southern plants are able to live the year round in the open air. On the other hand the summers are cool, and the autumns too wet to bring to perfect maturity the fruits of the earth. The grain which succeeds best is barley, of which very large crops are produced on the banks of the Camel and in its neighbourhood. Potatoes also yield abundantly in some lands, and seem peculiarly calculated for the climate. Good cyder is made on the eastern side of the county.

But it is to its mineral treasures, and the

Y

shoals



shoals of fish upon its coast, that Cornwall is indebted for its populousness and relative importance. From early antiquity this county has been noted for the tin which it produced, and which was an object of commerce to civilized nations, while Britain was a land of barbarians. Tin mines are dispersed over the greatest part of Cornwall; and the quantity procured is greater than in any other part of the world. The demand for this metal is diminished by the introduction of earthen-ware instead of pewter (which is principally composed of tin), for the use of the table; yet great quantities of tin are still employed for a variety of purposes: and it forms an object of considerable consequence both in domestic and foreign commerce. In particular, a large exportation to China and the East Indies has lately taken place, which has given new activity to the mining business. The Prince of Wales, who is also Duke of Cornwall, derives a revenue from the tin; and there are particular laws and regulations for



for the working, refining, and exporting of this commodity.

Very valuable copper mines are also wrought in this county, the ore of which is sent to Swansea and other places for smelting. Lead, lapis calaminaris, and other metallic substances, are likewise found here; as well as soap-rock, and clays of remarkable purity, excellent for the potter's use, and fine rock crystals.

Of the great variety of fish on the Cornish coasts none is so considerable an object of commerce as the pilchard, which appears in immense shoals during the summer and autumn, chiefly on the southern side. The pilchard fishery is carried on at St. Ives on the northern coast: on the southern in Mounts Bay; thence eastward at St. Mawes, Mevagissey, and quite to the Devonshire coast. Many boats and men are employed in it; and, besides the great supply these fish afford to the miners and other poor of Cornwall, great quantities are cured and exported, principally up the

Y 2      Mediterranean.



Mediterranean. Of late years the shoals of pilchards have been less constant and plentiful than formerly, and such losses have been sustained, that the fishery is now in a declining condition.

Of the farming products of this county it is sufficient to mention that draught oxen and swine are sent from it in some numbers.

The rivers of Cornwall are all small, their course to the sea being every where so short. They require no other notice than as they are connected with the harbours.

We shall now proceed to a survey of its sea-coast and its principal towns; premising that Cornwall possesses more parliamentary boroughs than any other county in the kingdom, its representatives being forty-four in number. Most of these places are now very inconsiderable, exhibiting a melancholy proof of the present great inequality of representation in the kingdom; an evil which, though the greatest wisdom may find it difficult to correct, yet sophistry alone can deny to be real and alarming.

On



On coasting the northern side of Cornwall from the Devonshire border, after passing *Bossiney*, said to be the birth-place of the renowned King Arthur, we come to a considerable inlet of the sea, called *Padstow haven*. Into this falls the river *Camel*, flowing from *Camelford*. The harbour of Padstow is choaked with sand, and the town only possesses a trade in herrings and slates. It has a considerable manufacture of serges, &c.

A long range of broken coast succeeds, to *St. Ives bay*, which affords a tolerable harbour to the town of that name, formerly a considerable place, but now subsisting chiefly by the coast trade and pilchard fishery.

At *Hayle*, an inlet from this bay, much of the copper ore raised in Cornwall is smelted; and the place is much frequented by the coasting vessels.

From hence the land soon begins to turn; and after *Cape Cornwall* appears the most westerly point of the island, *Land's-*



*end*, a vast aggregate of moor-stone. All the coast hereabouts is composed of rag-stone, with a little limestone intermixed. On proceeding eastwards along a range of high broken cliffs, *Mountsbay* first occurs, so called from a lofty peninsulated rock within it, named *Mount St. Michael*. Among the rocks on this part of the coast breeds the Cornish chough, or red-legged crow, remarkable for its property of stealing and carrying away whatever it finds; whence it has been accidentally a cause of the firing of houses by lighted brands conveyed to the roofs. In this bay stands the town of *Penzance*, a populous place, having a considerable traffic in shipping. On the shore of the bay the veins of tin and copper are visible as far as the land extends, even to low water mark. It is one of the tin-coinage towns.

*Helstone*, upon a rivulet which joins the sea a little further east, is also one of the towns in which tin is stamped.

The *Lizard point*, from whence ships  
leaving



leaving the channel take their departure, is the most southern land in Great Britain, being somewhat below the fiftieth degree of latitude.

Further on is *Helford harbour*, an inlet very convenient for trading vessels of all burdens. Into it empties *Gweek river*, which rises near Helstone.

The next remarkable object is *Falmouth haven*, a noble and most extensive harbour, communicating with a number of navigable creeks. *Falmouth* is a flourishing town of great traffic, which has been much improved by its being appointed the station of the packets to Spain, Portugal, and America.

*Penryn*, on a creek in this harbour, has a considerable trade in the pilchard and Newfoundland fisheries.

*Truro*, at the very head of the same harbour, is one of the best towns in Cornwall, and the residence of many genteel families. Its chief business is in shipping tin and copper ore, found in abundance in the parishes north and south of the road lead-



ing from hence to Redruth. It was here that the western forces of Charles I. under Lord Hopeton, surrendered to General Fairfax, who, with great military skill, had driven them (after the battle of Naseby) from Exeter quite into this toe of England, and foiled all their attempts to pass him.

On returning to the coast, and proceeding eastward beyond *Deadman's Point*, lies *Fowey* or *Foy*, upon the river *Fowey*, which is one of the most considerable in Cornwall. It has a great share in the pilchard fishery.

*Lestwitbiel*, on the same river, has lost its convenience of navigation by means of the sand which has choaked up the channel. It has a woollen manufactory, and is one of the tin coinage towns. Here the infantry of the parliament army under the Earl of Essex were in 1644 compelled to surrender to the king's troops.

The extremity of the Cornish coast this way is the *Ram-head*, at the mouth of the *Tamar*. A little way up this river on the Cornish side lies *Saltaſk*, which has a trade in  
malt



malt and beer, and derives considerable benefit from its neighbourhood to Plymouth.

Near the bank of the Tamar, pretty far inland, is situated the capital of the county, *Launceston*, a populous old town, containing nothing remarkable.

*Bodmin*, a decayed town near the centre of the county, has, on account of its position, been chosen for the place of holding the summer assizes.

*St. Austle*, between Grampond and Lestwithiel, though not a borough town, is the centre of much business, on account of its situation in the midst of some of the principal tin mines in the county.

At *Stratton*, in the north-eastern part of the county, a battle was fought in 1643, in which the forces of King Charles were victorious over those of the parliament.

About ten leagues to the west of the Land's-end, and easily seen from it, lie the *Scilly Islands*, a group of numerous rocks and islets, of which five or six only are inhabited. They are supposed formerly to have produced



duced much tin, but at present are chiefly known as a resort of sea-fowl and a place of shelter for ships in adverse winds. The inhabitants principally subsist by fishing, burning kelp, and officiating as pilots. The chief of the islands is *St. Mary's*, which has a good port. The Scilly rocks have been fatal to numbers of ships entering the channel. One of the most disastrous events of this kind happened in 1707, when Admiral Sir Cloudefley Shovel with three men of war perished with all the crews.



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# NORTH WALES.





## WALES IN GENERAL.

THE principality of Wales, long an independent and separate country from England, and still entirely differing from it in language, and in several respects in manners and customs, is strongly marked out by nature as a detached district, characterized by an almost continued range of mountains more or less wild and lofty, and interjacent vallies more or less extensive and fertile. It occupies all the central part of the western coast, and the country inland to a moderate distance; having its northern and southern limits well defined by the projecting line of coast from the Dee to Anglesey on the one hand, and the wide entrance of the Bristol channel on the other. The ancient internal dimensions of Wales have been contracted by taking from it the whole county of Monmouth, and a part of several of the adjacent English counties. At present  
it



it consists of twelve small or middle-sized counties; six of which are reckoned to belong to North, and six to South Wales. In general population and fertility the latter division has the superiority. All the Welsh counties except three touch the sea coast in some part of their boundary. The climate is mild near the sea, but very wet. The interior parts have the usual sharpness of mountainous regions.



## FLINTSHIRE.

THIS small county, which consists of a narrow slip of land, running from north-west to south-east, is bounded by the Irish sea on the north, by the estuary of the Dee and the county of Chester on the north-east and east, and by Denbighshire on the south and west. A detached part belongs to it, at some miles distance from the rest, separated by the interposition of Denbighshire, and almost encircled by Shropshire and Cheshire. The main portion of Flintshire is about twenty-eight miles in length, and no where above ten in breadth, generally much less.

The land rises pretty rapidly from the shore of the Dee to a ridge of hills running for a considerable way parallel to that river. The low part has a clayey soil, producing corn and grass plentifully; and is well stocked with wood. It abounds also with  
 I coal



coal and free-stone. The hills are barren on the surface, but rich within in mines of lead and calamine, with vast strata of limestone. The northern extremity of the county is a flat tract, growing much corn, especially wheat; of which a good deal is exported to Liverpool. The southern part is agreeably varied with hill and dale, and affords the view of several ruined castles. The vale of Mold in this part is uncommonly rich and beautiful. On the Denbighshire side the county is backed by a lofty chain of mountains, overlooking the vale of Clwyd.

The disjoined piece of Flintshire, consisting of the hundred of *Maelor Saefneg*, is mostly a level tract, though varied with gentle risings.

Of the small rivers of this county, the most remarkable is the *Allen*, which near Mold sinks under ground and is lost for a short space. The rivers of the vale of Clwyd have their exit in Flintshire.

The commercial importance of Flintshire



is almost solely derived from its mineral productions. The lead ore is smelted upon the spot, and the metal is exported from Chester. Some kinds of the ore contain silver enough to repay with profit the expense of separating it from the lead; and several thousand ounces of silver have been annually extracted in this county, which is chiefly used by the manufacturers of Birmingham and Sheffield. The calamine is partly exported, and partly used in a brass foundry at Holywell. From the coal-pits in the south-eastern part of the county the city of Chester is in a great measure supplied. Near Northop are considerable potteries, at which are made large quantities of coarse earthen ware, exported to the Welsh coast and Ireland.

Of the towns few deserve particular mention.

The capital, *Flint*, is a very small place without trade. There are large remains of its castle, in which the unhappy King Richard II. was delivered into the hands of his rival, Bolingbroke.

The



The diminutive city of *St. Asaph*, pleasantly situated near the lower extremity of the Vale of Clwyd, contains nothing remarkable.

At the mouth of the river Clwyd is the little port of *Rhuddlan*, accessible only to small vessels. On a marsh in its neighbourhood was fought in 795 a battle between the Saxons and Welsh, in which the latter were defeated, with the loss of their prince Caradoc; and the event was considered as so disastrous, that a plaintive tune, still popular in Wales, was composed on the occasion.

*Holywell*, from its vicinity to the mines, though in great part a new town, is now the most flourishing in this county. It takes its name from the famed well of St. Winifred, concerning which so many fables and superstitious notions have prevailed. It is in fact a most copious stream of very cold and pure water, bursting out of the ground with great impetuosity at the foot of a high hill. Besides the cold bath, celebrated for wonder-  
ful



ful cures, formed at the spring head, and covered with a beautiful gothic shrine, it is now applied to the purpose of turning several mills for the working of copper into sheets, bolts, pans, &c. making brass wire, paper, and snuff, and spinning cotton; which various branches give great employment to the town and neighbourhood.

The county assizes are held at the neat little town of *Mold*.



## DENBIGHSHIRE.

THIS county runs parallel to Flintshire, but its extent is much greater. On the north it just touches upon the Irish sea. The north-eastern side is contiguous to Flintshire and Cheshire, the south-eastern to Shropshire. From south to north-west it is successively bounded by the three counties of Montgomery, Merioneth, and Caernarvon. From this last it is separated by the river Conway, though not accurately, the promontory of the Great Ormes-head being in Caernarvonshire, though on the eastern side of the river. Its extreme length is forty-eight miles, its greatest breadth not above eighteen, and in the middle much less.

In Denbighshire the rugged and mountainous character of Wales is conspicuously apparent, though softened by a considerable mixture of fertility and beauty. At the south-



South-eastern extremity the banks of the Dee afford fine pasture and meadow land; and cheese is made in these parts equal to the Cheshire. The varied charms of the country about Wrexham and the seats of Wynnistay, Chirk-castle, and Erddig, have been much admired. At Llangollen the scenes are more romantic and sublime, on approaching the lofty *Berwyn* mountains, which separate this county from that of Merioneth.

Northwards is the hundred of *Yale*, hilly, productive of grass, and abounding with cattle, but bare and dreary to the view. Then, from its middle of the county, commences the celebrated *Vale of Clwyd*; in the tract of which lie the towns of Ruthin and Denbigh. From its upper end to the sea it stretches upwards of twenty miles. Its breadth varies from three miles to eight, according to the approach or recess of the high mountains enclosing it, through which in different parts are gaps formed by nature for entrances. This delightful spot is in a



high state of cultivation, even far up the ascent of the hills; and is full of towns, villages, and gentlemen's seats. The river *Clwyd* runs along the vale, and is joined by several small streams from the neighbourhood.

On the western side the county becomes more uniformly alpine, with frequent small lakes and deep narrow vales, interspersed amidst naked mountains. The northern part, towards the sea, is more level; and from Abergelly sinks into the extensive plain of Rhuddlan.

The products of Denbighshire are chiefly corn, cheese, and cattle; though it also partakes with Flintshire in some of the lead mines on its borders, and has others in the south-western part, together with coals. It is pretty well wooded with old plantations, and some extensive new ones have been made.

*Denbigh*, the capital, is finely situated on a rocky declivity above the Vale of Clwyd. Its ruined castle, with its vast enclosure crowning



crowning the top of the hill, forms a striking object. Denbigh has a pretty considerable manufacture of gloves and shoes, which are sent to London for exportation.

*Ruthin*, placed in the Vale near its head, is a very neat and well inhabited town.

The most populous town in this county, and indeed in all North Wales, is *Wrexham*. It is a place of considerable traffic, and noted for its fairs. Wrexham is of Saxon origin, and retains the language and appearance of an English town. Its old church, distinguished by a profusion of gothic ornaments, and by a very large and lofty tower, is the boast of this part of the country. Near Wrexham is a large foundry for cannon and other articles.

Wool is wrought up in the domestic manufactures of this county, into cloths of different fineness, and stockings.



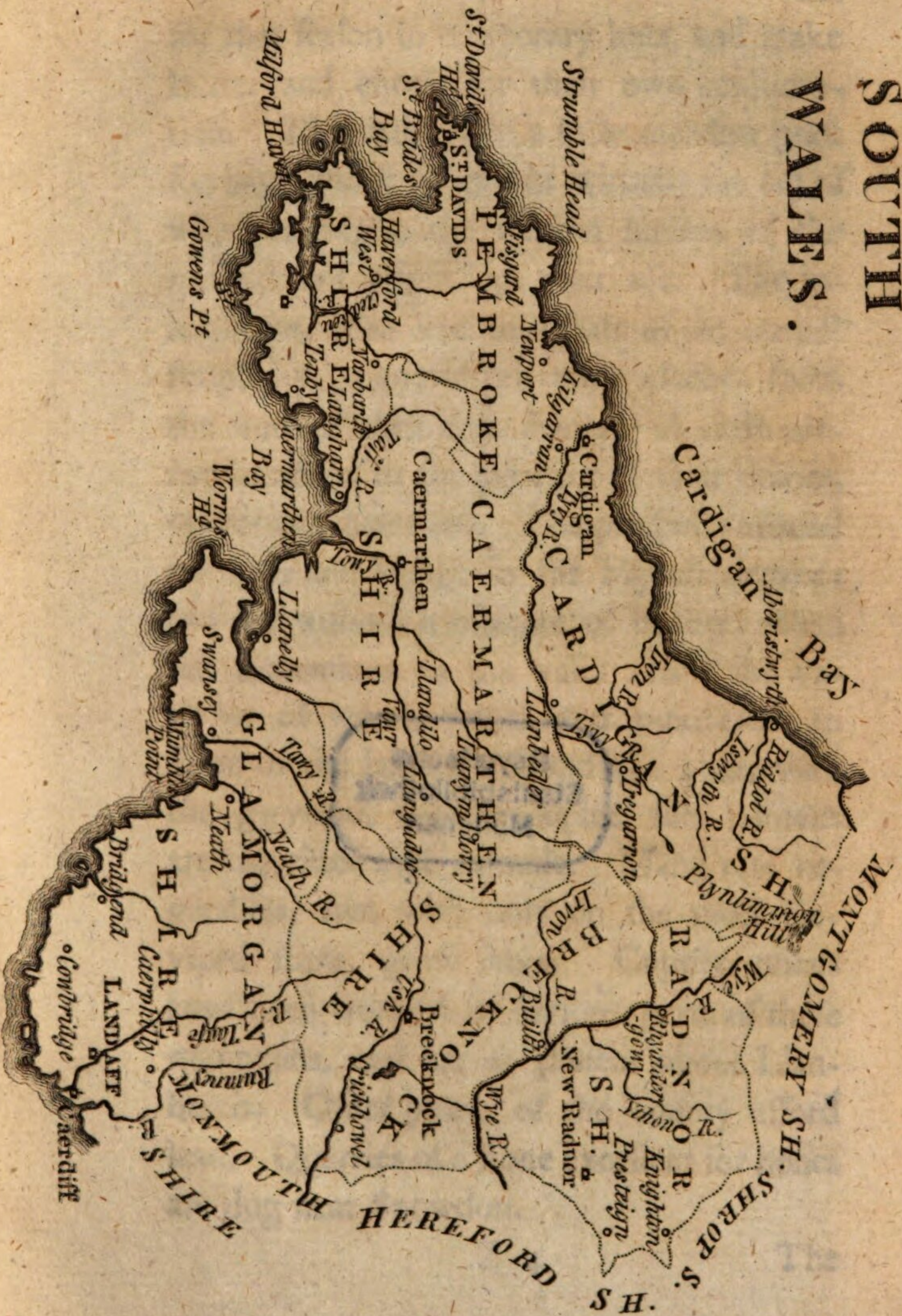
## CAERNARVONSHIRE.

THIS county is surrounded by the sea on all sides except the east, where it joins to Denbighshire, and a small part of the south contiguous to Merionethshire. Its figure is very irregular, a great peninsulated point running out from it to the south-west. From the extremity of this point to the north-eastern point measures forty-five miles. The breadth is very various.

Caernarvonshire is the most rugged and truly alpine district of North Wales. Its central part is entirely occupied by the famed *Snowdon*, and the several craggy summits, deep dells, moors, chasms, and lakes, which constitute its dreary region. The woods which once clothed this tract are now no more. Cattle, sheep, and goats, are almost its sole rural riches. These are fed during summer very high on the mountains, tended by their owners, who reside  
for



# SOUTH WALES.





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for that season in temporary huts, and make butter and cheese for their own consumption. The vales yield a little meadow grass for hay, which is got in without the aid of wheel carriages, the uneven surface of the ground not admitting their use. The inhabitants, who live in a state of the utmost simplicity, manufacture their clothes from the wool of their own flocks. A little oatmeal, added to the produce of their dairies, constitutes their food. The prospects around are rude and savage in the highest degree; but not without a mixture of beauty, when the dimensions of the vales admit the varieties of wood, water, and meadow. In some of the lakes are found the char, with the gwyniad, another alpine fish. Foxes are the chief wild animals. Many rare vegetables, met with only on the most elevated spots, grow here. Copper mines have been worked in various parts of these mountains, and are at present about Llanberris. Other places of the county afford lead. Quarries of a stone excellent for hones are dug near Snowdon.



The *vale of Conway*, in which the river of that name runs along the whole eastern border of the county, is a long and narrow tract, equally romantic and beautiful. It affords rich pasturage, corn fields, and groves; and forms a pleasing contrast to the bleak region of Snowdon frowning above it.

The rest of Caernarvonshire lies along its extensive sea-coast, which we shall now trace.

The promontory of *Llandudno*, or the *Great Ormes-head*, belonging to this county, though across the Conway, is a fine sheep-walk, ending in a steep precipice over the sea, the haunt of various sea fowl in the breeding season, and inhabited by that fine species of hawk, the peregrine falcon.

At the mouth of the river *Conway* is the town of that name, a small place with a little port, distinguished by the massy remains of its noble castle, formerly one of the most magnificent edifices of the kind in the kingdom.

Beyond



Beyond this is the once tremendous precipice of *Penmaenmawr*, overhanging the sea; now securely crossed by a good road.

The small city of *Bangor*, on the *Menai*, or strait separating this county from Anglesey, next succeeds; and not far from it, on the same strait, the capital, *Caernarvon*. This last is a pleasant well-built town, inhabited by many genteel families, and carrying on a considerable trade by sea with Ireland and the principal English ports. It has a castle of remarkable grandeur, built by Edward I. the conqueror of Wales, in which he gave the Welsh, according to his equivocating promise, a native prince for their sovereign, in the person of his own son, Edward II. born in this castle.

Nothing remarkable occurs on the coast till its southern extremity in the peninsulated hundred of *Llyn*. This is in general flat, though sprinkled with rocky hills. Its chief produce are oats, barley, and black cattle, of which vast numbers are annually exported. Quantities of fish, especially herrings,



rings, are caught round the shore; and lobsters abound on it. Many sharp points of land run into the sea, forming bays between them. Off the most westerly point lies the small *isle of Bardsey*, once famous for a convent, the resort of numerous monks. The principal town at this end of Caernarvonshire is *Pwllbeli*, a tolerable port, possessed of some trade.



## A N G L E S E Y.

THIS island, which constitutes one of the counties of North Wales, is situated to the north-west of Caernarvonshire, from which it is separated by the long and narrow strait called the *Menai*. It is of a rhomboidal shape, but deeply cut and indented on three of the sides. Its northern, eastern, and western points are sharp and narrow; the southern angle is more rounded. From point to point the length is about twenty miles, and breadth about twenty-two.

The part of the island bordering the *Menai* is finely wooded, recalling to the mind its ancient state when it was the celebrated seat of the Druids, the terrific rites of whose religion were performed in the gloom of the thickest groves. Rude mounds and heaps of stones, supposed to be Druidical remains, are yet to be seen here. A little way within, however, the whole

4

country



country changes its aspect into a naked tract, without trees, or even hedges, rising in small hills, watered by numerous rills, and fertile in grass and corn.

The products of Anglesey are corn and cattle. In favourable years large quantities of barley and oats are exported by sea; and several thousand head of cattle, besides multitudes of sheep and hogs, annually cross the ferry of the Menai to the main land. Its fertility is of ancient reputation, for it had long ago acquired the title of *the nursing mother of Wales*.

But the wealth and population of Anglesey have lately received a great increase from the discovery of the famous copper mine on *Parys mountain*, the largest bed of ore of that metal probably known in the world. It is wrought for the most part not in the common manner of subterraneous mines, but, like a stone-quarry, open to day; and the quantities of ore raised are prodigious. The ore is poor in quality, and very abundant in sulphur. The purest part  
is



is exported raw to the smelting works at Swansea and other places; the more impure is first calcined and deprived of most of its sulphur on the spot. Quantities of nearly pure copper are obtained from the waters lodged beneath the bed of ore, by the intervention of iron. A lead ore rich in silver is also found in the same mountain. The little adjacent port of *Amlwch* is now converted into a populous town by the residence of the miners, and the trade they occasion.

In the north-western part of the island is a quarry of green marble, intermixed with that curious substance, asbestos.

The principal town in Anglesey is *Beaumaris*, a neat well-built place with a castle founded by Edward I. It has no trade, but the bay before it affords good anchorage, and is a frequent refuge for ships in stormy weather.

The decayed town of *Newborough* subsists only by a manufacture of mats and ropes made of the sea reed-grass, which binds together the sandy hills on the coast.

On



On the western point of the island is *Holy-head*, well known as the most commodious place of passage to and from Dublin, and as the station of the packets. The head protecting the harbour, forms a vast precipice above the sea, hollowed by caverns, and frequented by falcons and sea-fowl.

The steep rocky islet of *Priestholme*, off the eastern point, is a noted resort of sea-fowl, especially the puffin, which breeds there in the rabbit burrows. This bird, though very oily and fishy, is by some thought a delicacy when pickled.

The *Skerries*, or *isle of Seals*, at the northern point, is a rocky little island, possessed by a few sheep, rabbits, and puffins, and having upon it a light-house of great use to mariners. Its sides are frequented by vast shoals of fish, and seals which prey upon them.



## MERIONETHSHIRE.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Caernarvonshire and Denbighshire, on the east by the latter county and that of Montgomery, and on the west by the Irish sea. Its form is irregularly triangular, gradually contracting as it runs southwards till it terminates almost in a point. It measures thirty-six miles from north to south, and thirty-four across in its broadest part.

The face of this county is varied throughout with a most romantic mixture of all the peculiar scenery belonging to a wild and mountainous region. Less dreary than Caernarvonshire, as being much better clothed with wood, it is not less fertile in objects which impress the mind with awful astonishment. Of a country thus composed it will suffice to point out some of the most remarkable and leading features.

Beneath the lofty Berwyn hills, at the  
north-



north-eastern angle of the county, spreads the fine vale in which the infant *Dee* flows; which stream, traced towards its source, soon leads to the *lake of Bala*, or *Pimblemeer*, a fine expanse of clear water, embosomed in hills and well stored with fish. The town of *Bala* on its bank is noted for a great trade in knit woollen stockings and gloves, the product of the industry of both sexes in the circumjacent country, by which not only the wool of their own mountains, but much purchased in Denbighshire, is wrought up. The venerable *Dee* receives its name only on leaving *Bala lake*; yet some trace its head higher, to the foot of the lofty mountain *Aran*, which the poet *Spenser* makes the residence of the sage *Timon*, foster-father to *Prince Arthur*.

His dwelling is full low in valley green,  
Under the foot of *Rauran*, mossie hore,  
From whence the river *Dee*, as silver clean,  
His tumbling billows rolls with gentle rore.

FAIRY QUEEN.

South of this spot begins the Alpine region, with narrow deep vallies, between  
I
high,



high, verdant, and precipitous hills, and moors affording peat, the only fuel of the country. The *Dovy*, a considerable river, rolls through the bottoms; and, after washing the small town of *Dinasmowddwy*, crosses a part of Montgomeryshire, and at last forms the southern boundary of Merionethshire. All this country abounds in sheep, the wool of which is manufactured upon the spot into stockings and flannels.

Above the little town of *Dolgelleu*, soars the great mountain *Cader Idris*, one of the loftiest in Wales; beyond which, towards the sea, are first round smooth hills, the extensive sheep-walks of the country, and then a flat, consisting of meadows and black turberies.

North of *Dolgelleu* the alpine tract again commences, enlivened with woods and frequent cascades. Some of the lakes afford char and singular crooked-backed trouts. This sort of country extends to the north-western angle of Merionethshire, in which is situated the small but strikingly beautiful



*vale of Festiniog.* Some strangely sequestered situations, inaccessible without hazard, yet not without their charms, and the feats of simplicity and rustic competence, are formed amid the savage scenery of this wild region.

*Harlech* on the coast, though the capital of the county, is a very poor town, distinguished only by its almost entire castle, another work of the great subduer of Wales.

The only port of Merionethshire is *Barmouth*, on a little arm of the sea, into which several small rivulets discharge themselves. It is a harbour of difficult entrance, and not much frequented, though some years ago considerable quantities of the manufactures of the county were exported from it.

Near the mouth of the Dovy are large iron works.



## MONTGOMERYSHIRE

THIS county on the north touches upon those of Denbigh and Merioneth, on the west upon the latter and that of Cardigan, on the south upon Radnorshire, and on the east upon Shropshire. It measures, from the angle in its northern border to its southern, about thirty-six miles, and from east to west nearly the same.

Montgomeryshire, though barren and mountainous in many parts, has yet a greater mixture of fertile vale and plain than several of the Welsh counties. The most considerable of the level tracts is that through which the *Severn* flows. This fine river, rising in the huge mountain of *Plynlimmon*, situated partly in this county and partly in that of Cardigan, runs first almost across the southern side of Montgomeryshire, and then, turning northwards, enters Shropshire from the east above the Brythen hills.



Other vales accompany the numerous tributary rills which feed the infant Severn. Of these streams the largest are the *Vyrnew*, formed of two uniting branches of the same name which cross the county from its western side; and the *Tannat*, forming part of the Denbighshire boundary, and meeting the *Vyrnew* before it joins the Severn. These rivers are remarkable for the great variety of fish contained in their waters; among which is the salmon, which visits not only these remote streams, but even penetrates up the Severn almost to the foot of Plynlimmon.

The riches of Montgomeryshire proceed from its sheep and wool, and the flannels and other coarse cloths manufactured from it. The hilly tracts are almost entirely sheep-walks; and the flocks, like those of Spain, are driven from distant parts to feed on them during summer; the farms in the small vallies being only a sort of appendages for winter habitations and provisions. The manufactures are collected through the country and sent to Welsh Pool, whence they



they are carried in a rough state to Shrewsbury to be finished and exported. Dyer gives a lively description of this traffic:

The northern Cambrians, an industrious tribe,  
Carry their labours, on pygmean steeds,  
Of size exceeding not Leicestrian sheep,  
Yet strong and sprightly: over hill and dale  
They travel unfatigued, and lay their bales  
In Salop's streets, beneath whose lofty walls  
Pearly Sabrina waits them with her barks,  
And spreads the swelling sheet.

FLEECE.

This county also affords mineral treasures. An uncommonly rich lead mine was wrought many years with vast profit at Llangynnog in the northern angle, but is now overpowered by water. Near the same place is a large slate quarry. Slate is also got near the conflux of the Vyrnew and Severn, and sent down that river to Bristol; and on a limestone rock in the neighbourhood are burned amazing quantities of lime, which is carried all over the county, where that article is for the most part wanting. Coals

A a 3

are



are not found in this county, whence the inhabitants are obliged to use wood or peat for their scanty fuel.

Of the towns in Montgomeryshire little is to be said. *Montgomery*, the capital, is a small neat place without trade. Various military actions have happened in or near it, among which was a hot engagement in the civil wars of Charles I. terminating in a complete victory on the side of the Parliament.

*Welsh Pool* is the principal trading town of the county, being the great mart for flannels, as before mentioned. The Severn begins to be navigable a little way below this place.

*Llanidloes*, a small town in the midst of the feeding and manufacturing tract, has a great market for woollen yarn.



## RADNORSHIRE.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Montgomeryshire, on the east by Shropshire and Herefordshire, on the south and south-west by Brecknockshire, and on the north-west by Cardiganhire. Its form is nearly triangular, growing narrower southwards. Its greatest length is twenty-six miles, its greatest breadth thirty-one.

The river *Wye* forms its separation from Brecknockshire almost the whole length of their common border. This river, springing out of Plynlimmon hill, very near the source of the Severn, crosses the northeastern corner of Radnorshire, giving name to the town of *Rbyaidergowy*, or the fall of the Wye, where it is precipitated in a cataract; and then, flowing between the counties of Radnor and Brecon, at their termination turns short into Herefordshire. Into the Wye flow several rivulets crossing Radnor-



shire from the north, of which the principal is the *Ython*.

The county of Radnor has proportionally more cultivated land than some of the other Welsh ones; its eastern and southern parts being tolerably level and productive of corn. The other parts are rude and mountainous, and chiefly devoted to the rearing of cattle and sheep. The north-western angle is an absolute desert, almost impassable. This was the retreat of the British King Vortigern, after he had felt the fatal effects consequent on his imprudent act of calling in the Saxons to his assistance.

The three principal towns lie in a cluster on the eastern side.

*New Radnor*, the county town, is a very inconsiderable place, and has lost the privilege of holding the assizes.

These are held at *Presteign*, situated in a rich valley near the source of the Lug. This is a neat and well inhabited town.

*Knighton*, just to the north of the last, is a place of some trade.

CARDIGAN-



## CARDIGANSHIRE.

THIS county stretches along the sea-coast in a bending line from north-east to south-west, forming, in conjunction with the coast of Merionethshire, the large lunated bay of Cardigan, protected by the peninsula of Caernarvonshire to the north-west; the frequent shelter of vessels in contrary winds. On the land side Cardiganshire is bounded northwards by a point of Merionethshire, from which it is separated by the mouth of the Dovy and by Montgomeryshire; eastwards by the counties of Radnor and Brecknock, and southwards by those of Caermarthen and Pembroke; the river Tyvy forming the greatest part of the southern limit. Its extent along the shore is near forty miles; its breadth across, in the widest part, less than twenty.

The sea-coast of Cardiganshire has suffered greatly from the depredations of the sea, an  
 extensive



extensive tract formerly celebrated for numerous towns now only containing a few poor villages. It is however in high estimation for the growth of barley, of which much is sent to the adjacent counties for feed. The manure made use of is sea-weed. This tract is level, particularly at the south-western extremity. The northern and eastern parts are mountainous and barren, yet afford pasture for multitudes of sheep, and in their narrow vales feed large herds of black cattle, and make a good deal of butter and cheese. Many small lakes are formed in the hollows on the eastern side, from one of which issues the principal river of the county, the *Tyvy*, or *Teivy*. This at first bursts its way through a very rocky tract, till, forming a regular channel, it passes Tregarron, and, arriving at the border of Caermarthenshire at Llanbeder, from thence becomes a boundary of the counties to the sea.

Several rivulets, taking their rise from the sides of Plynlimmon, run directly across  
the



the northern part of the county. Of these are

————— *Ryddol* rough,  
*Blithe Iſtwith*, and *Clevedoc* swift of foot.

FLEECE.

These small streams, with many others in the mountainous tracts of Wales, which in dry weather are mere shallow brooks, by rains are often swelled to furious torrents, bearing down every thing before them, and tearing up even the soil of the vallies, which they fill with barren gravel and stones.

The exports of Cardiganshire are black cattle, taken to Kent and Essex; pigs and salt butter to Bristol, and barley and oats to Bristol and Liverpool.

The mountains of this county in many parts contain lead and other minerals; but coals and other fuel are as scarce here as in the neighbouring counties.

The towns are of little consequence.

*Cardigan*, the county town, situated near the mouth of the Tyvy, is a tolerably well-built



built and populous place. At *Llechwydd* in its neighbourhood are iron and tin works.

*Aberistwyth*, at the mouth of the *Istwyth*, has a small coasting trade. The herring-fishery, which once flourished here, is at an end, on account of the desertion of the fish. This town is a resort for sea-bathing. Its port, as well as all others in the county, is unsafe.

*Rhos-fair*, near the source of the *Tyvy*, is noted for its fairs for sheep and black cattle.



## PEMBROKE SHIRE.

THE county of Pembroke forms the south-western extremity of Wales, and is surrounded by the sea except on the north-east, where it is separated by the Tyvy from Cardiganshire; and the east, where it is contiguous to Caermarthenshire. It is very irregularly shaped both towards the land and the sea; so that its size can scarcely be measured; however, its length may be estimated at twenty-seven miles, and its extreme breadth at thirty.

A great part of this county is plain, and tolerably fertile, consisting of rich meadow and arable land. The north-eastern part alone is mountainous; it, however, yields good pasture for sheep and cattle. The southern part produces good crops of grain, and also contains large quantities of coal and culm (which is an inferior sort of coal); and its coasts abound with iron stone. The



fisheries on the coast are valuable. Pembroke-shire is rather a growing than a corn country. It exports a great number of oxen, and its breed are in particular esteem with the drovers. Salt butter and cheese are considerable articles of exportation; and large profits are made by the breeding of hogs.

Its principal rivers are the *Cledheu*, east and west, which, rising in the northern part, unite at a small distance from Milford-haven, into which they discharge themselves.

The sea-coast is in general hilly, with steep or perpendicular cliffs. We shall trace it from its north-eastern point at the mouth of the Tyvy.

The first remarkable place is *Newport-bay*, at the bottom of which, on a small river, is situated the town of *Newport*, an inconsiderable harbour.

*Fisgard bay* succeeds, with a town of the same name, which shares in the herring-fishery.

From hence the coast winds round *Strum-*  
*ble-*



*ble-head* to that of *St. David's*, off which lies *Ramsey island*, together with a group of rocks, frequented in the breeding season by vast multitudes of sea-fowl. The city of *St. David's* is a very inconsiderable place, at the extremity of a most dreary tract of country.

The large *bay of St. Bride's* succeeds, a safe retreat for vessels in all winds but the south-west; and beyond some islands on its southern side is the entrance to the celebrated *Milford-haven*. This is a deep inlet of the sea, branching off into so many creeks, secured from all winds, and capable of receiving the largest vessels, that it is reckoned the safest and most capacious harbour in Great Britain. Its remote situation, however, greatly impairs its utility either for the purposes of commerce, or as a station for ships of war. Men of war, indeed, are sometimes built here; and forts have been erected to defend the harbour. It was at *Milford-haven* that the Earl of Richmond, afterwards King Henry VII. landed  
on



on his enterprize against Richard III. Oysters are found in considerable quantities in this bay. A new town has been planned at Milford for a colony of quakers from Nantucket in America, who have been encouraged to establish a whale fishery from this country to the southern hemisphere.

*Pembroke*, the county town, situated on a creek of this bay, is a well-built place, but in a state of decline, the navigation to it being injured by the rubbish of the limestone quarries near it.

The last place on the coast to be noticed is *Tenby*, at the head of a small bay, with a little port, and a good road for ships before it. This is a town of brisk trade, large quantities of coal and culm being shipped from it for Ireland and other places.

The principal inland town of this county is *Haverford-west*, situated on a river flowing into Milford-haven, which is navigable to the town for vessels of moderate burthen. It is a well-built and considerable place, and inhabited by many genteel families.

The



The country hereabouts, between the two branches of the Cledheu, was settled in the time of Henry I. by a colony of Flemings, whose language, manners, and national industry, long distinguished them from the surrounding natives, with whom they had frequent quarrels. The names of places in this part are, indeed, at present manifestly different from those of the Welsh: and English is the current language of the county.

Near the small town of *Kilgarran* on the Tyvy is a remarkable salmon leap, which gives occasion to the capture of that fish in great abundance. Above this place are large works for the fabricating of tin plates.



## CAERMARTHENSHIRE.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Cardiganshire, on the east by Brecknockshire, on the west by Pembrokehire, and on the south partly by Glamorganshire and partly by the sea. It extends from east to west above forty-five miles, but in the contrary direction little more than twenty.

The general surface of Caermarthenshire is hilly; and in the northern and eastern parts, the hills rise into mountains. The vales are for the most part narrow, and the hills rise abruptly from the skirts of the small vallies with which this district is almost every where intersected. The vale of Towy is the principal of the level tracts, extending thirty miles up the country, with a breadth of two miles. Near Laugharne is a considerable flat tract embanked from the sea, and of singular fertility.

The principal river of the county is the  
*Towy,*



*Towy*, which, rising in Cardiganshire, enters Caermarthenshire at its north-eastern corner, and, crossing towards the south-west, passes Caermarthen, and empties itself into a kind of large bay formed by the whole coast of this county, shut in on each side by the projecting shores of Pembrokeshire and Glamorganshire. The vale of *Towy* abounds in picturesque beauties, which from the celebrated Grongar hill, and the ruined castle of Dynevor, afford the richest prospects. Many rivulets join the *Towy* in its course; and several others in the county run separate to the sea, among which is the *Taff*, which comes down from Pembrokeshire.

The climate of Caermarthenshire is not favourable to wheat. Barley succeeds better; but the most profitable crop is oats; of which large quantities are exported to Bristol and other places. Numbers of black cattle are bred in the county; and much butter is made for exportation. Its rivers and sea-coast abound in fish, especially salmon. It has been extremely well wooded, but great waste has of late years been made



of the timber. Coals and limestone are plentiful, and it contains lead mines.

The capital of this county, *Caermarthen*, is well built and populous, and is usually reckoned the first town in South Wales. Its river admits vessels of moderate burthen, which gives it a considerable trade.

*Llanelly*, upon an arm of the sea running between Glamorganshire and this county, exports a considerable quantity of pit-coal.

From *Kidwelly*, a small town on a creek near the mouth of the Towy, a canal has been cut to some collieries, whence coals are brought down and exported.

In the neighbourhood of *Llandovery* considerable quantities of woollen stockings are manufactured. Some miles to the north of it are great lead mines.

Near *Llandilo-vawr*, a small town on the Towy, was fought the last battle between the forces of Edward I. and of Llewellyn Prince of Wales, which, proving decisive against the latter, put a final period to the independency of Wales.

BRECKNOCK-



## BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

THE county of Brecon is bounded on the north and east by that of Radnor, separated by the river Wye, on the east by a small part of Herefordshire, on the south-east and part of the south by Monmouthshire, on the rest of the south by Glamorganshire, and on the west by Caermarthenshire and Cardiganshire. Its form is irregularly triangular, narrowing northwards. Its length is twenty-nine miles; the breadth of its southern basis thirty-four.

Brecknockshire is one of the more mountainous counties of Wales, and affords a variety of the sublime scenes, some of which are described in the following lines:

Nor black *Trecarris'* steepy height,  
Nor waste *Trecastle* gave delight,  
Nor clamorous *Hondy's* fall.

DODSLEY'S COLL. IV.



The *Vann*, or *Brecknock beacon*, is reckoned to be the loftiest mountain in South Wales.

Ridges of hills form the separation of this from most of the adjacent counties, and these are said to shelter it in such a manner, as to render it temperate. An ancient writer indeed (*Giraldus Cambrensis*) dwells chiefly on its being protected to the south from the *heat of the sun*, and fanned by *cool breezes*: a commendation that implies a difference either in the nature of our climate at that time, or in the feelings of the inhabitants. The land declines towards the banks of the *Wye*, where it is tolerably fertile, as it is also in the vallies watered by its numerous rills; but the proportion of the good land to the bad is estimated only at one fourth.

The principal river of the county, next to the boundary one of the *Wye*, is the *Usk*, which, taking its rise from the *Black Mountain* in the western side of this county, on the border of *Caermarthenshire*, flows across it through a fine valley to the south-eastern



eastern angle, passing the town of Brecknock in its way.

—— *Uſk*, that frequent among hoary rocks  
On her deep waters paints th' impending scene,  
Wild torrents, crags, and woods, and mountain snows.

DYER.

The commodities of Brecknockshire are cattle, sheep, wool, and the coarse cloths and stockings manufactured from it.

The county town, *Brecknock*, is moderately large, well built, and inhabited by several families of gentry. It has a trade in the woollen branches. A little to the east of it is a considerable lake well stored with fish, out of which a rivulet runs to the Wye.

*Crickhowell*, lower down on the *Uſk*, is a pretty, but small, market-town.

*Myrthor-tedvel*, a village near the border of Glamorganshire, situated in the midst of coal and iron ore, has lately become a very populous place from the establishment of many iron founderies and forges.



## GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THIS county has to the north those of Caermarthen and Brecknock, to the west Monmouthshire, separated by the river Rumney, and to the south and west the Bristol channel. The greatest part of its sea-coast swells into a semicircular sweep; but the western extremity is formed into a narrow beak, between the open channel on the one hand, and an arm running round to the Caermarthenshire coast on the other. The county measures from east to west forty-eight miles, from north to south at the deepest part only twenty-six.

The northern part of Glamorganshire is very mountainous, barren, and thinly inhabited, serving chiefly for the feeding of cattle and sheep. Various rivers rise in it, which run southwards through vales gradually expanding, so as to form a middle district tolerably fit for cultivation, and well clothed



clothed with wood, at length terminating in the great level or vale of Glamorgan. This is a tract extending along the sea-coast to eight or ten miles inland, the most fertile part of Wales, rich in corn and pasture, and well furnished with the mineral treasures of coals, lead, iron, and limestone. A native bard of the county, Mr. Edward Williams, paints it in the following pleasing colours.

Glamorgan, boast thy sky serene;  
Thy health inspiring gales;  
Thy sunny plains, luxuriant green;  
Thy graceful mountains' airy scene;  
Their wild romantic vales.

Of these rivers the principal, besides the boundary one of *Rumney*, are, first the *Taafé*, an extremely rapid stream, entering the sea at Caerdiff. Upon this river, not far from Caerphilly, is a stone bridge called *Pont y Pridd*, of a single arch, supposed one of the widest in the world, being one hundred and forty-feet in the span and thirty-four high, planned and executed by the untaught genius



nus of a common mason in this county. Then the *Elwy*, whose mouth is very near the former, at Pennarth: the *Neath*, coming down from Brecknockshire, and falling into the sea below the town of its own name; and the *Tawy*, flowing parallel to the Neath, and discharging itself into Swansea bay.

*Caerdiff*, the county town of Glamorgan-shire, is a place of moderate size, handsome and populous, with a commodious port, which gives it a coasting trade of some extent. In the ancient castle of this town, after a cruel confinement of many years, inflicted by his brother King Henry I. died Robert the deposed Duke of Normandy, eldest son of William the Conqueror.

*Landaff*, a few miles from this town, is a very small and mean place, though a city. It is observable that the four episcopal seats in Wales, Bangor, St. Asaph, St. David's, and Landaff, are at present four of the meanest and least flourishing places in the whole principality.

*Caerphilly*, near the border of Monmouthshire,



shire, is a place of great antiquity, and noted for the majestic ruins of a castle said to have been the largest in the kingdom next to that of Windsor.

The assizes for the county are held at the small but neat town of *Cowbridge*.

*Neath* has a small harbour from whence coals are exported. In its neighbourhood are iron forges, smelting works for copper, and many coal mines.

*Swansey* is by much the most considerable commercial town in the county, an advantage it derives from a good port at the mouth of the Tawy, and from the great plenty of coals in its neighbourhood. Of these it sends great quantities to Ireland and the southern coast of England. It has a considerable trade to Bristol for groceries and shop goods. The business of Swansea has lately been increased by the establishment of great works for the smelting of copper ore, particularly that of Anglesey, and also of lead ore. Many ships have been built here, and it is become a place of resort for sea-bathing.

The



The peninsulated extremity of the county beyond Swansey bay, called *Gower*, has very lofty limestone cliffs next the sea, from whence great quantities of lime are exported to the English counties across the channel. The coast abounds with oysters. The land is a fertile tract of arable and pasturage.



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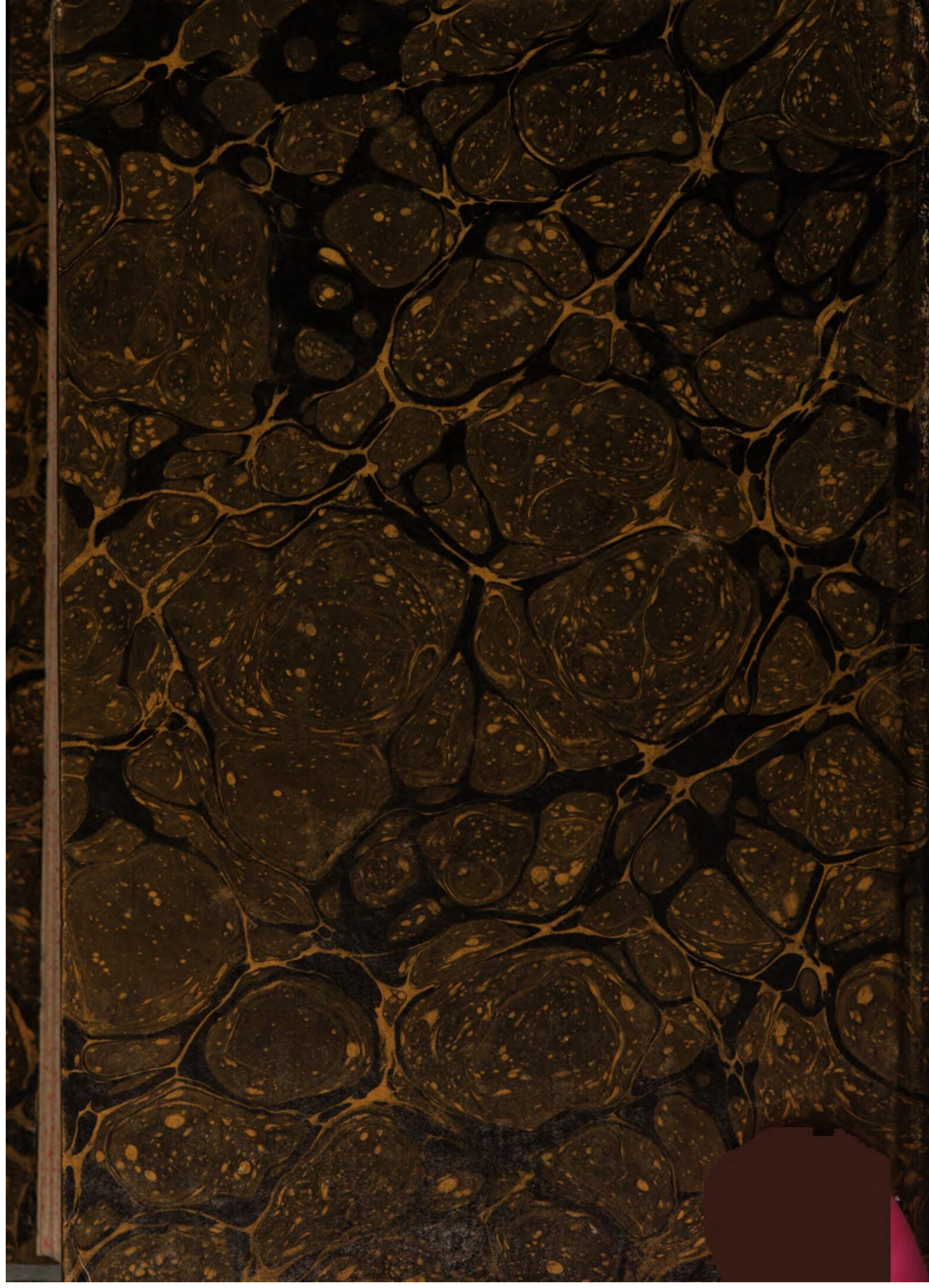








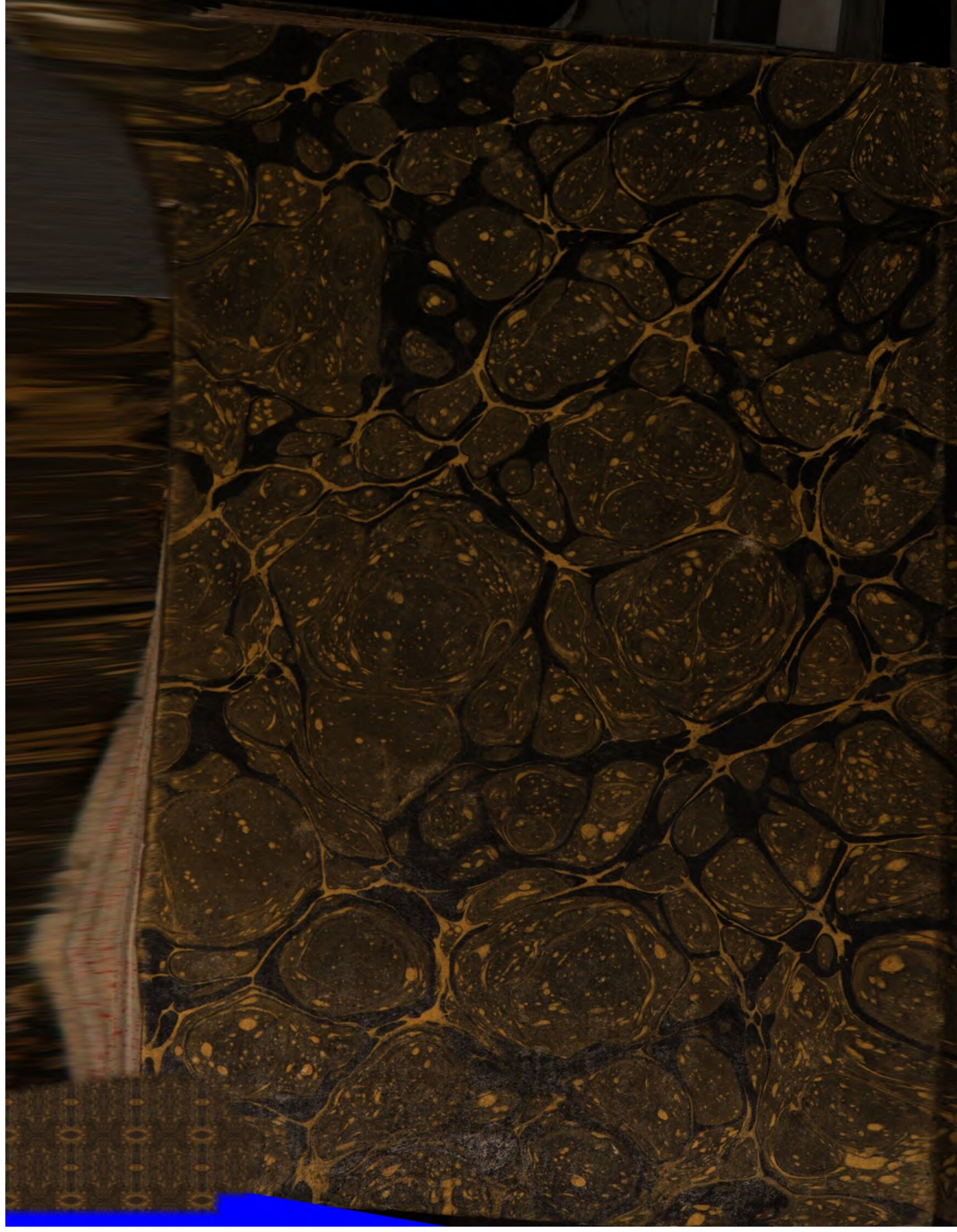














Aikin, John,

England delineated, or, a geographical description of every county in  
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